

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

SEPTEMBER
2006

Where Seekers Find a Home

OCTAGRAM

New Service Times Begin on September 10th

Our new schedule for Sunday services begins on September 10th. On that day, the first Sunday after Labor Day, we initiate two services for the first time. Here is what the schedule through May 2007 will be:

- 8:45 a.m. Childcare available
- 9:00 Worship Service
- Children's Program thru 5th grade
- 10:00 Social Hour
- Open Issues
- 11:00 Worship Service
- Children's Program thru high school
- 12:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 12:30 Childcare ends

With this new schedule, we are adding more choices to your weekend activities. To kickoff this new schedule, Abhi will provide a sermon series based on the sources of UU inspiration, from the great world religions to religious humanism. Please check the UUC website calendar for details at: www.uuclearwater.org.

Institutionalize the Second Ministerial Position!

Reverend Millie Rochester was hired last year on a two year contract as Assistant Minister for Education. For her ministry to continue beyond those two years, the position must be changed to a "called" position. She would then be Associate Minister. A congregational meeting will be held October 29 to institutionalize the second ministerial position and call Millie. There will be town hall meetings and other opportunities for questions and for members to express their opinions.



Taking Care of Ourselves and Our World

As Unitarian Universalists, we have a great tradition of support for social justice issues and, of course, for protecting the fragile web of life. Most of us believe strongly in taking care of those in need, whether victims of natural disasters or human tyrannies. We extend ourselves to defend the natural world on which we depend so much.

We also do a lot to take care of ourselves and our spiritual home. Members of this congregation donate hundreds of hours each year to assisting each other at times of need, whether it's moving to a new location, when illness strikes or simply providing babysitting aid...we're there.

This is all part of our commitment to stewardship. Stewardship is defined as "taking good care of something entrusted to one's care". This congregation has been entrusted to us by the dedicated men and women who have nurtured it since its founding more than 50 years ago, for us and for those yet to arrive. So keep up the good work. Do your part as a good steward of UUC. We are depending on you to share your time, your skills, your compassion and your energy to make certain that we take good care of ourselves and our world.



Yoo Hoo!
Psst!

More about an
Important Ministry:
Cares and Concerns

I just wanted to get your attention so you would read this article! Glad it worked? (wink, wink)

Because I have been soooooooo blessed to work with a terrific team on the *Cares & Concerns Committee*, I wish to publicly acknowledge them. They not only "do the job," they do it with loving hearts.

Arlene Alldredge

Barbara Shimer

Betty Jackel

Betty Upson-Schmitz

Elizabeth Franklin

Gail Rose

Pat McGiverin

Terry Henderson

Susan Allen

As I stated in my previous *Octagram* article, receiving a phone call, a card in the mail, or having a visit from someone at UUC makes us feel a little better, a little more special, and maybe a little less alone when life gets painful or overwhelming. At times our members have special needs or require extra care just as Reverend Millie & her husband did in July when faced with her major surgery at the same time they had to move to a new home. The great response to help the Rochesters was truly awesome.

It bears repeating...

I put my "mug shot" in this article for a reason. *I want you to find me.* Find me in the social hall, find me in the sanctuary or in the foyer! Call me! Email me! Tell me you want to be a part of this caring energy. Your involvement can be as little or as much as you are able.

And as I also said before...

If you know of anyone who needs a caring hand, a call, a visit, please tell a committee member, the office staff, or one of our ministers.

Help us to help others - Cares & Concerns Committee
Jackie Brown: (727) 772-6764 email: sillyjacky@aol.com

Random Reflections



A question that I am asked from time to time particularly in UU 101, our introductory class on Unitarian Universalism, is: "What do you see as the most important challenge for the UUA [Unitarian Universalist Association], and in turn, the UUC, over the next 3-5 years?" My answer to both parts of the question is usually the same, but for entirely different reasons: growth.

Unitarian Universalism must grow if we are to realize our potential as a force for freedom of conscience, social justice, and being a welcoming faith. For a long time, our numbers nationwide have been stuck under a quarter of a million, growing slowly but barely keeping pace with the population. These numbers include our children's enrollment in religious education. This figure befits an obscure professional association more than a religious movement worthy of the name.

With the UUA's leadership for peace, racial reconciliation, and equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, I've never been more proud of Unitarian Universalism. But if we are to hold our own, let alone make progress, in the national conversation on these and other issues, we need the power and authority of greater numbers.

Growth is also a critical challenge for UUC. But we are already blessed with numerical growth. We are a growing religious community of over 350 adults and children.

Our challenge is to adapt to the realities of a mid-size congregation-to devise new ways of worshiping, relating, planning, decision-making, and authentically engage and inspire our growing numbers. The means and mores of a small congregation are strained by a larger congregation. Change is essential and inevitable-not change for change's sake, but change for the sake of health, inclusiveness, belonging, and spiritual depth.

This year, we are going to two services to enhance growth (starting Sept. 10). This change is both exciting and challenging. It will call on us to stretch a bit, to make room for those who come seeking solace and inspiration, and be welcoming and caring of each other as we go through the process. I hope you will participate with enthusiasm in worship and other church programs and, invite your friends and neighbors to be a part of our community. We will also be engaging in a congregational conversation and making a decision about institutionalizing the second ministerial position currently held by Millie Rochester.

I hope our conversations will enable us to discern how our vision and mission are tied in to our commitment to growth and what kind of commitments we are willing to make our vision a living reality. What are we called to be and do – as individuals and as a religious community?

As always, I can say unequivocally that it is a privilege to serve as your minister. Thanks for all you do for this religious community. Your reward may not be in heaven, but please know that it is appreciated here and now, and that it will be appreciated by those who come after us!

May you continue to live in blessing!

In faith,

Abhi Janamanchi

PS-

At our Ingathering Services this **September 10**, we will continue the tradition of a water communion. To prepare for this ceremony, I invite each of you to bring water collected from your summer travels that is a source of deep meaning to you. This source could be a spring hidden deep in the woods, a mountain lake, a muddy stream, a flowing river, an inflatable wading pool, or the tap in your own kitchen. More important than the where is the why. Why is the source of this water important to you? What core values in your life does it represent? What story does it tell?

Please bring a small container (tightly sealed, please!) of this water with you to our Ingathering Service. As part of our worship, you will be invited to pour your water into a common vessel. This water communion symbolizes how in our congregation many disparate journeys blend together in shared community and purpose.

Since there won't be time during the service for each of us to recount the full story of the meaning of our waters, I invite you to bring with you a short note of about ten to fifteen words describing the origin and significance of your water. (Paring down your message to fifteen words may be a challenging spiritual exercise in itself!) If you prefer, please feel free to email the note by September 7 to abhij@uuclearwater.org.

During the service, I will read aloud from these notes to convey the spirit and diversity of these water offerings. We will bless these waters and later offer them as nourishment for the trees, bushes, and flowers on our church grounds.

I hope this tradition will be another reminder of the sacredness of our individual stories and the power of our dwelling together in religious community.

INWARD SPRINGS
Rev. Millie Rochester

One of my favorite hymns is *Rank by Rank*, often sung at Unitarian Universalist gatherings on special occasions. After those three words comes the phrase, “from the four winds gathered hither,” the words that always give me a thrill. I’m reminded of that song at this time of the year, as UUs who have been away re-gather in their congregations after summer.

It’s a time to celebrate being in community, whether we’re long-time members or newcomers; and this year, beginning September 10th, two worship services provide a choice in scheduling. Worship and religious education are offered at both 9:00 and 11:00, enabling choices. Note, though, that the junior youth (middle school) and YRUU (Young Religious UUs – high school age), meet only at 11:00.

For many people, the choice is which time to worship in the sanctuary and which time to teach or assist in the religious education (RE) program. That may be why the teaching roster is almost full, with 36 volunteers – one teacher and one assistant for each class.

If you have not signed up yet, don’t despair, there are still some openings! **At 9:00**, we need one more assistant for the third-fifth grade group; and **at 11:00** two people in the nursery, one teacher and two assistants for the first/second graders, one teacher and one assistant for third-fifth graders. If you are interested in being an advisor for YRUU, please

contact me for an interview.

Another opportunity is to participate in one or more special Sunday celebrations throughout the year: Homecoming (September 10th), Day of the Dead, Hanukkah, Mystery Friends, Easter, or Justice Sunday. You really won’t want to miss the fun and companionship, at either service.

Throughout the year, all of the parents and children will have chances to all be together, too, and the entire church community will, as well. Take home copies of the Handbooks for the lifespan RE program, which detail many events and activities, and note weekly and newsletter announcements. And when you make plans, include other people!

As we gather September 10th, the adults in the Octagon and the young people whose worship service is in the Social Hall, we will celebrate a traditional Water Communion. Bring a small container of water (children their own) collected from whatever special place you have been this summer – your backyard sprinkler or household tap, the gulf, a lake or river...and as we each add our individual water to that of the rest, we will once more know that we are a beloved community.

Blessings,
Millie



CARES & CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Dick Loomis passed away in mid August. A memorial service is to be scheduled near the end of September, closer to Dick's October 3rd birth date. Please send cards and letters to his wife, Connie, in care of "Bain," at 2230 Demaret Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698. Connie may still be in rehab at Mease Manor recovering from a fractured hip and wrist.

Some members haven't been around much lately because they are dealing with various health issues (either themselves or that of a loved one). Perhaps you were wondering how some of these folks are and wish to call: O'Neal Jacobs, Jean Carter, Jane Brown, Ed Hermann, Clara Morabito, Eleanor Rogers, Trish Dempsey, Susan Hegner, and Jeanne Traugott. A few others have been in extended stays in rehab and hospitals and my like to hear from you: Renee Dralnick can be reached at Morton Pant Rehab and Ruth Crittenden at Belleair East Health Care Center.

A few others have been in extended stays in rehab and hospitals and my like to hear from you: Renee Dralnick can be reached at Morton Pant Rehab and Ruth Crittenden at Belleair East Health Care Center. Florence Gschwind is doing very well, but does not attend because she is no longer able to hear well enough. She says she misses coming to church. She may get to come one service when her family comes for Thanksgiving. If you need more information about these members, please feel free to ask me for details. Jackie Brown—727-772-6764

Religious Education News

Got kids? Bring them to church! The 9:00 service offers care and curricula for children from birth through fifth grade, and at the 11:00 service Jr. Youth and YRUU will meet, too.

Warm Florida mornings and RE teachers welcome families to gather at the picnic tables near the playground, to register, sign in children, and visit before church begins. Children and teachers join the rest of the congregation in the Octagon for the beginning of the service about twice a month, and have their own worship service in the Social Hall about twice a month, before going to classes.



As we welcome one another back from the summer, the first day of two services will be celebratory. Children's worship will feature a Water Communion, each child adding a small amount of water collected during the summer to one another's, briefly describing their experience. The water may come from home or nearby, it may come from far away. In any case, it is special, because it represents an experience that is shared. Special activities will follow. This is not a "teaching" Sunday, so it's one of a few chances for volunteers who are *not* signed up to teach to participate. Four helpers are needed at each

service. Contact Rosanne Silverman or Rev. Millie to volunteer or get more information.

It's not too late to sign up to teach, at either service. At 9:00, an assistant is needed for the third-fifth grade group, which is using Beginning Unitarian Universalism. At the 11:00 service, there are a few more choices: at least two people helping babies and toddlers to feel at home; another teacher and two additional assistants guiding first and second graders with the UU program Treasure Hunting; and two more assistants for third-fifth graders. If you are interested in being a youth advisor, please talk with Rev. Millie about scheduling an interview. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10-3, or by other arrangement, beginning in September.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

Welcome to most of us to the new church year. I hope your summer was a good one. In June, the Task Force on Ministry To and With Youth published their summary report regarding the Youth Ministry Survey. The survey was designed and analyzed by Market Voice Consulting; 1,399 surveys were analyzed; and the average age of respondents was 15.2 years old. The results of the survey are important and very worthwhile for our Association as we make certain the spiritual development needs of our youth are being met.

The results of the survey indicated the vast majority of youth report that, on all levels of youth ministry (local, district/regional, and continental), they feel welcome and respected. Most respondents also believe that youth ministry programs provide them with opportunities to learn new things, to get involved in their communities, and to develop leadership. However on all levels of youth ministry and across all ages and identities, youth report that their spiritual needs are not being met. Only 53% of respondents consider their congregation their spiritual home. And similarly, 53 % say that their youth groups meet their spiritual needs. The question is how can our ministry with youth help them to determine their spiritual needs, articulate their faith, and feel spiritually fulfilled?

Only about half of respondents believe that adults in their congregation or their congregation's board members other than advisors, RE directors, ministers and RE

teachers, support youth ministry. This lack of local adult support suggests that this involvement may cause youth to feel alienated from adults in their congregations. The question becomes what aspects of youth groups, district/regional and continental youth programs are causing youth to feel alienated or isolated from adults in their congregation?

There are other findings as a result of the survey. Because the average age of survey respondents was fairly low and only 37% of survey respondents were junior high level it is important we ensure that there are relevant opportunities and resources for junior high youth, and that this information reaches them, enabling them to be actively involved both within their congregation and in the larger UU community. Also some youth choose to stop attending youth group or religious education, even if it's available in their congregation for various reasons. Fifty percent said they are too busy to attend and another 25% stopped attending because they didn't like the other youth in the program. About 24% started attending worship services instead. These results suggest that youth group/religious education did not meet the needs or engage the interest of these youth, and therefore they did not make it a priority in their lives.

Would you like more information? Contact me jblund@uua.org or go on-line at www.uua.org and address the link for the Task Force on Ministry To and With Youth. I wish each congregation in our District and great new church year.

Charlene Carnes - Board Report

Highlights from the Board:

On the third Wednesday of each month, the Board of Directors meets to discuss issues that affect our congregational life. During the August, 2006 meeting, the following topics were addressed:

- Adopting a revised Board Covenant,
- Reviewing and voting on rental arrangements,
- Hiring approval for UUC's new Office Administrator,
- Addressing and acknowledging that key volunteer positions are vacant such as Office Coordinator and some have joyfully been filled such as Hospitality Chair.
- Delving into our financial affairs such as how to book reserve funds and where,

Monthly reports from Millie Rochester, Abhi Janamanchi, and Kris Temple (Treasurer) were also presented at the meeting.

All are welcome to the meetings if a particular issue is of concern or to get a deeper understanding of how a spiritual home runs. Next month's meeting will be held September 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Patio Room.

Board Retreat: I can't remember when I have been so proud to be a member of a group as I was at the Board Retreat August 11 and 12 at the Franciscan Center in Tampa. Most of the Board attended, as well as our two ministers, Abhi Janamanchi and Millie Rochester. True to our UU spirit, we began with dinner which enabled us to take on the serious business of planning and setting our goals for the year. The Friday night session was supposed to have ended at 10:00, but the discussion continued until 10:30 when someone noticed the late hour. Some of us went to bed while others partied! Midmorning on Saturday we were joined by Committee Chairs who each gave their reports and updated us on their activities. It is too bad that we don't have a video of this talented group of people in action. A special thanks to Laura Iyer, Linda Stoller and Pegotty Cooper who planned the retreat and led the discussions.



PLEASE JOIN THE BOARD IN WELCOMING Yvonne Charneskey, our new Office Administrator. Yvonne, a charming, friendly, and talented lady began working with us Monday 21 August. We look forward to working with her at UUC!

Social Justice News

Split the Plate is September 17

When UUC begins the fall season in September, we will split the non-pledge worship service collections between UUC and THE NORTH GREENWOOD FREE CLINIC. This is a non-profit all volunteer organization that provides quality health care to the underserved citizens of Pinellas County. Literature about this clinic is at the Social Justice table. Their need is great, so please bring your checkbook!

Social Justice Committee Meeting Date Changed

Due to the Labor Day holiday the Social Justice Committee meeting will be on **Saturday, September 9th** instead of its' normal meeting date of the first Saturday of the month. We meet in the Westwood Room from 9:30 am until 11:30 am. All interested persons are welcome. Come see what this very active committee does, and join the fun!

Betsey McGovern Concert A Huge Success



After months of planning, the Betsey McGovern Concert was held on Saturday August 19th.

The evening began with a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception beautifully arranged by Soledad Loba and assisted by several volunteers. Dorothy Wylie was a very proud aunt as she watched her niece perform for the nearly 180 people in attendance. Betsey entertained and delighted her audience with wonderful songs, instruments and amusing anecdotes. She was truly a joy, her music a gift.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Georgiann Jones and her son Jason for the heart wrenching, beautifully done slide show. It vividly showed the destruction and devastation wrecked on New Orleans and FUUNO by Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the Social Justice Committee and our community was asked to partner with the First UU of New Orleans (FUUNO). It was decided to concentrate on helping to restore their music ministry and try to purchase a piano.

The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to announce that over \$3,500.00 was raised toward the purchase of a piano for the First UU of New Orleans.

The Social Justice Committee wishes to thank those of you who attended, donated food, and supported our efforts. Without the combined support and assistance of our entire community this event would not have succeeded. We especially thank the many volunteers who did the countless number of jobs necessary to make this evening a success. Special thanks to Linda Stoller, Carol, Georgiann Jones, Susan Goldman, Betty Jackel., Susan Kane, George Root, Soledad Loba, Cheryl Long and Ed Hannon.

We were again treated to the "nightingale voice" of Betsey McGovern during Sunday services. The Reverend Marta Valentin, pastor of the First UU of New Orleans, attended the concert and gave the reflections on Sunday morning. She expressed her deep gratitude for all we have done. This is a new kind of Partnership, one born out of desperate need, a need that will continue for many months, possibly years, to come. She hopes as we continue to assist FUUNO that a genuine and lasting connection and an enduring bond of friendship will be made between the members of FUUNO and UUC.



FLORIDA DISTRICT NEWS

Greetings from Your New District Executive

August 2006

Dear Companions in Faith,

It is with a deep sense of honor and humility that I begin this month serving as your Executive for the Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I am excited by the challenges and the opportunities that lay ahead. I thank the Board of Directors, the Selection Committee, and the UUA for their confidence in me.

The District Executive's role is to be a consultant to congregations, especially to their leadership. My job is to work with lay volunteers and called clergy to support your ministries, to guide you in the ways of healthy congregational life, and to cultivate cooperative work among and between congregations.

For these first few months, I am wearing two hats as I end my ministry with the Fort Myers congregation through the end of October. Thus, at the outset, I must limit my District work to urgent issues and longer term planning. That said, I hope you will not hesitate to call or write if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Today Unitarian Universalists need to provide a vibrant witness to the values of human dignity, peace and justice (in so many ways). As we have for so long, we are called still to promote and defend personal and social freedom and to ensure the democratic process among ourselves and in the larger society. Ever more urgently, we are challenged to become activists in ensuring a healthy relationship with our natural world. We must also do a better job of ministering to the spiritual yearnings of our

members and those seeking a genuine religious alternative in American life.

Congregations do this work in our tradition. Yet, no one congregation can do it all. Thus, we must join our hearts and hands to extend our reach and to improve our practice. That's where your District affiliation comes in — to be the vehicle for this more broadly shared engagement. I hope you will consider ways you can offer your skills to the shared effort.

My priorities this first year include getting to know you on a first name basis while learning your concerns and hopes. Along the way, I will bring to you the learnings of over thirty years of Unitarian Universalist ministry in congregations small and large. I hope my work among you will focus on healthy practices and the establishment of right relationships, with a particular desire to join forces between congregations whenever possible.

The items in this packet reveal ours is a dynamic district with much good going on. Thank you for letting me join you in this work. Call. Write. Stay in touch. The best way to do so is simply to call the District Office or send me an email at khurto@uua.org.

Many blessings upon you, your congregation, and our shared witness.

Kenn

The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto
Executive, Florida District of the UUA

Dear Florida District Leaders and Friends,

We are delighted to announce that Connie Goodbread has accepted our offer to serve as the Acting Lifespan Program Consultant for Religious Education for the Florida and Mid-South districts beginning immediately. She will serve 20-hours a week, split approximately evenly between the two districts. It is anticipated that this acting position will exist until June, 2008 at which time a decision will be made about future staffing for R.E. in these districts.

Connie Goodbread is a Credentialed Director of Religious Education with over twenty years of experience and has been the Acting Lifespan Program Consultant for Florida District UUA since November of 2005. She has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in many different capacities: youth advisor, Religious Education Committee Chair, member of the Board of Trustees and Director of Religious Education. Connie has been a Dis-

trict Consultant for eight years. With Rev. Susan Smith, she has co-created The Chrysalis Way, an innovative emerging congregation process. Connie has had eight years of training with Dr. Peter Steinke in Healthy Congregations and is a Trainer of Healthy Congregation Consultants. She is also a Bridgebuilder Consultant, a process that helps to identify and cope with conflict.

Connie and her husband Bob have five children, all grown, and six grandchildren that she will be delighted to tell you about. They also have a Silky Terrier and a Siamese cat. Please join us in welcoming Connie to this new role. For those of you who wish to send her a note, her email address is crgdre@tampabay.rr.com.

Rev. Harlan Limpert, Director for District Services, UU Association of Congregations
Steve Helle, President, Florida District
John Malluck, President, Mid-South District

Open Issues Forum — 9:30 a.m.

- September 5 **John Chase** "UUC Facility, Present and Future"
September 10 **Chuck Sollinger** "U.S. Population Hits 300,000,000." How will this change our lives?
September 17 **Mark Brandt** "Free Will and the Bible"
September 24 **Dorothy Wylie** "Project Vote Smart" Unbiased information.

Open Issues Forum Committee

Dot and Chuck Sollinger	797-7784	Marion Davis	723-1327	John Chase	784-1234
Herb Blume	461-5414	Dorothy Wylie	797-5736	Bill Dougherty	539-1646
Charlene Carnes, Liaison	789-3536				

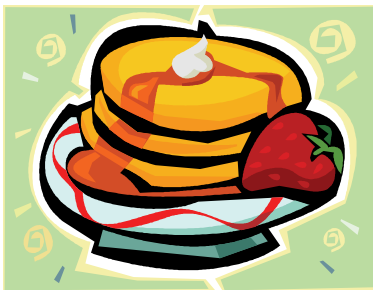
Committee Fair September 17th

This is the perfect time to think about the level of your commitment in the UUC. If you don't already belong to a committee I would encourage you to join one. It is a great way to build ties to new people and learn new things. We often laugh at the large numbers of committees at the UUC. There are numerous jokes about how we UU's do everything by committee. However, active committees are vital to our congregation. Committees are the place where work gets done. The vision and the mission of the UUC are just a bunch of words if our actions are not backing them up.

There is a place for each of you on a committee. Some committees require a larger time commitment than others, some are more program focused and some are more administrative. Some meet face to face and some meet by email. On September 17th after each service we will be having our annual committee fair. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn about the different committees at the UUC and to sign up for the committee of your choice. You can also learn about the committees and contact the chairs on the UUC website.

The following is Edward Everette Hale's Affirmation from our hymnal, Singing the Living tradition:

I am only one
But still I am one
I can not do everything
But still I can do something
And because I can not do everything
I will not refuse to do
The something that I can do.



Annual Men's Group BIG

Meeting!

Sunday September
17th between ser-
vices at 10:30 AM

in the Social Hall. Plans and dates will be set for the Annual Semi-Annual **Pancake Breakfast**, and the Annual **Men's Retreat**. Suggestions and other proposals for the year shall be discussed. Discover the details and present your proposals at the BIG meeting. We average between one and three meetings a year so don't miss this first, biggest, and most important meeting of the year! **Please plan to be there!**

National Farm Workers Ministry

I traveled to Avon Park in July to support undocumented workers there. Numerous cities through the U.S are trying to enact laws to make it illegal to rent or sell property to undocumented workers and to make English the official language. By a narrow vote of 3-2, the proposed ordinance was defeated. Also, the city of Palm Bay defeated a similar ordinance this week. We've got to keep our support up! The next meeting of the National Farm Workers Ministry is 25 September, 2006 at Friendship United Methodist Church (2039 E. Druid Rd. Clearwater). Registration starts at 7pm, for a program at 7:30, in which Bert Perry, the Southeast Director of NFWM will be speaking about her trip to California for the NFWM meeting and the many changes Farm Workers are facing with the possible new immigration bill on the horizon. See you there!

PEACE & JUSTICE,

Joe Morgan

727-443-2330

joemorgannfwm@hotmail.com



Do you have questions about what it means to be a Unitarian? What is this liberal religion based on, & when did it get started and by whom? When did UUC arrive on the scene?

If you are looking for a new religious home and those are some of the questions that need to be answered before your decision, consider making a reservation to attend the path to membership classes, which are known as "UU 101." Beginning on September 12th, the four week sessions will be held in the Patio Room of the Social Hall from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Or, if your calendar is crowded, consider the all inclusive one-day meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 21st.

Participants will have an opportunity to clarify their values and beliefs within a communal context with other guests new to UUC, as well as current members, including some who choose to repeat the class for a variety of reasons. Everyone is welcome, and a special invitation to those who have been visiting with us over the past few months.

In these meetings the rich history of Unitarian Universalism is explored, which offers a radically different approach to the traditions of most other great religions. To join UUC does not require an assent to a specific creed. We are known as seekers, and recognize everyone is a theologian, capable of articulating one's own beliefs and spirituality. Therefore, that is how a covenant to affirm our Principles to a liberal, inclusive, reasoned approach to life brings our members a rewarding commitment to "The Uncommon Denomination." We invite you to examine with others your chosen spiritual path, UUC activities and Unitarian Universalism through these sessions led by our ministers.

Call the office, sign up at the Welcome Desk on Sundays, or email me at donnab52@yahoo.com to let us know you are interested. We look forward to presenting a stimulating environment for your participation, as we all have an opportunity to learn, share and get acquainted.

Donna Ballard
Membership Committee Chair

BOOK SALE!!

We're so excited to announce the 3rd Annual Colossal Book Sale! It will be October 13th, 14th and 15th. The Friday night dessert party on the 13th at 7pm will be for members and friends. This will give you an



opportunity to buy books before the public and enjoy social time with our UUC community. Saturday, the 14th, we will be open to the public from 9am to 3pm. And on Sunday, the 15th, members may purchase books after each of the services.

Many volunteers are needed, both for the week preceding the sale to help set up and on the days of the sale. Beginning Sunday, September 10th, the Book Sale Committee will have a table in the Social Hall after services where you may sign up.

Please continue to bring in your donations of books, DVDs, CDs and videos. We need to have them by October 8th, before we begin setting up. If you have so many that you need help, please call or email a member of the committee to arrange a pickup. The members are Barbara Brandt, chair, Arlene Alldredge and Pat St. Clair.

We also need 'flats' to hold the books. These range in size from cardboard box lids to the large ones available at Sam's or Costco, or in the supermarket produce section.

All donations may be left in the lobby of the Octagon, to the right of the front door as you enter. Thanks so much for your help and we hope you are looking forward to this fun event!

The Clearwater Chapter of the PSY Symposium will be holding meetings after the late service in the Patio Room on the following topics:

September 24 – Kipp Mudge will lead a discussion on "Mundane Experiments with Quantum Science and the Bizarre Results."

October 29 – Fritzie Redmond will lead a discussion of "A Course In Miracles."

Are you game for an original book? More "dead sea scrolls" were discovered, translated and recently published. They have been named "The Book of Judas" and they throw a startlingly different light on Judas and Jesus. The King James version and the other familiar ones show Judas as the ultimate traitor, the betrayer of Jesus for a few pieces of silver. This new book shows Judas as Jesus' closest friend, loyally "betraying" him at Jesus' request. Is that startling enough to appeal to your UU heart? The Religious Right is up in arms about it. John Conover saw a big display of the book and its discovery in Washington. Join us on Friday mornings 9:30-11:00, starting Friday, September 15, in the Chorale Room. Sign up in the Social Hall or office and buy the book for \$15. *Mary Flanagan--799-6281 and mary2701@verizon.net*

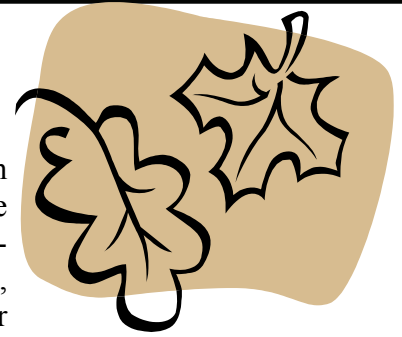
Getting to Know You

The new social season is upon us, and you are invited to be part of it. So please come, and be part of our planning committee for many new and interesting activities! We will be holding an organizational meeting on 7 September at 7:00 pm in the library (of the Social Hall) to discuss and plan activities for the new season. All suggestions are welcome for new and old activities! Everyone who wishes to help carry out our plans. New members are especially welcome. *If you have questions, please call me, Ruth Samuel, at 791-1216.*



JOIN US FOR OUR FALL WORK PARTY!

On Saturday, Sept 9th from 7:00am-12Noon, we will be raking leaves, mulching, weeding, painting, trimming, talking, laughing, and beautifying our spiritual home. Food and drinks are provided-- please bring gloves and any tools you think we can use! Sign up after Sunday Services in the social hall or contact *Ashlynn DeCosta- Ponnudurai* by phone (727-510-4811) or email Ad69dd99@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you here!



The **Tuesday evening Social Bridge** will resume on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be in the Patio Room unless otherwise announced. If you are able to attend, please call *Betty Upson-Schmitz* at 392-6390. We need at least 8 players.

The new art season begins with a show by members of the **Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA)**. An opening reception will be Saturday, September 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The last day for the show will be October 18. We have had many compliments on this summer's

SUUSI cannot be explained... only experienced!

-Paul Langrock

PS: SUUSI Discounts Available! Lead a workshop on something important to you, that you'd like to share, and receive registration credit to boot! Workshop proposals due by mid October. Full or partial credit also available by joining one of the many fun SUUSI staffs. Log-on to: www.suusi.org **Only 47 weeks until SUUSI!**



Members Show that is currently displayed. The show will end Sunday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend). Art may be taken home following the Sunday service and must be removed to make room for the PAVA show which will

be hung Thursday, September 7. Thanks to all who have let us enjoy your art for the entire summer!



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OCTAGRAM

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

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- Facilities Manager **Janine Tompkins**
- Octagram Editor **Nancy Warner**

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:

- Marie Chapman** 772-0812
- Diana Fraser** 527-7648
- Chuck Shimer** 517-3801
- Sol Winner** 397-1935
- Dorothy Wylie** 797-5736

Please send OCTAGRAM submissions to the UUC 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 September issue, deadline is August 20, 2006.

**Sunday Worship Services
are at 9am and 11am.**

Visit: www.uuclearwater.org