

OCTAGRAM

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Inward Springs

I gave up my childhood faith on January 3, 1982. By then I was an adult with children myself. My family had moved to an area where there wasn't a Unitarian Universalist church or fellowship within 200 miles, and I missed going to church. A lovely little Episcopal church was just down the street, the twin of the one I remembered attending as a child, so I went. Not only the visual surroundings, but the words and rituals were comfortingly the same.

My comfort level dropped, though, when the words I was reciting along with the rest of the congregation suddenly registered. I had always taken this recitation seriously, but I couldn't honestly say that I believed in "one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God..." Intellectually, I had known I was Unitarian Universalist, but now I knew for certain that I could not return to being Episcopalian. I could no longer ascribe to the necessary creeds.

We UUs are linked as individuals in a religious community inspired by freedom of thought and belief that draw us into covenant, rather than creed. The word covenant is traditional religious language that refers to a "solemn agreement" or "promise

from the heart." Its roots originate from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, describing the special relationship between God and God's people. In our own time, a covenant has come to mean a shared understanding, agreement, and commitment – a solemn and public promise – among people. It is mutual; reciprocal, not unilateral.

Religious creeds can be a problem when made a test of character or a condition of fellowship, and they often become an obstacle to progress. A covenant is different; it assumes trust and good will among the covenanted. At the same time, trust and good will are possible when such a relationship exists. In a trusting relationship, we feel safe taking risks, and in what seems a beginningless chain of events, risk-taking enables inner growth to occur.

Our covenantal promises are at the heart of our mutual relationship, based on the values we share and the qualities we affirm in one another. This is what makes our church community different from the "intelligence community," or say, the Sierra Club, or a book club. We are a *community of faith*.

The third chapter of Amos asks, "Can two walk together except that they are agreed?" Well, yes and no. I can't walk the path as an Episcopalian anymore, so there are limits. But walking together, as Conrad Wright reminds us in his book of the same name, is possible even when we don't always agree – when we walk together in covenantal relationship. This is the foundation of the house that is our Beloved Community.

On November 6, UUC and I will formally recognize a covenantal relationship. I truly hope to see you – adults, youth, and children – that afternoon at 4:00, when we will be joined by ministers and friends throughout the area for a joyous celebration.

*Faithfully yours,
Rev. Millie Rochester*

Announcements Policy

Please use the Announcements Form to write out your announcement before service begins. They are available either on the Visitor Desk or at the pulpit. This will help ensure that your announcement will be brief and pertinent. About half of our sample poll wanted members to make their own announcements, but several expressed the wish that announcers would not ramble on. Of course, this also allows you to hand your written form to someone else to read, if you are not a "public speaking" person.

Many thanks for your cooperation from the Religious Services Committee

President's Message



Bill Norsworthy

The idea of a second service is another challenge in a long line of challenges that our congregation has taken on over the years. Challenges are fun when they are successfully achieved even when they are difficult and require us to change the way we do things. In the last few years we have been on a path of change that began with the development of our Long Range Plan in 2003. Many of you were not here at that time.

Through the generous bequest of long-time member Marie Wood, we have been able to move forward on two key elements of our plan: hiring Barb Buckland as our Business Administrator and Millie Rochester as our Assistant Minister for Lifespan Religious Education. While Marie's gift helped us to hire these two very important people within the last two years, we did so with the understanding that we were adding the professional resources needed to support a growing congregation. We knew that we had a great opportunity to have our UU message be heard more broadly. We were proactive in making this commitment to become a larger congregation.

So what of this idea of growth? Does this mean that each of us gets to keep things the way we want and just make changes for everyone else? No way! Change, especially growth, creates the need for everyone to change. Growth is now part

of our mission: "we invite fellow seekers to join in our quest." That means we all have to adjust our expectations. We have to be flexible. We have to make room in our friendship groups for UUs who have not yet arrived at our doors.

This brings me back to the second service. Because of the limits we face in our parking lot, we really can't continue to grow much beyond our current membership of about 300. In the Long Range Plan we said that we want to be a congregation of more than 400. For that to happen, something's got to change, and the second service is the change that will make future growth possible.

In the weeks ahead, we will be working on additional details of our second service plan. I hope you will participate in this process of refinement that will help the plan be very successful in future years. The final decision about the second service will be yours. We expect to have a congregational meeting before the end of this year at which the congregation will make the decision regarding how we should proceed. In this way we honor our fifth UU principle: "use of the democratic process in our congregations."

Challenges can be fun, as I said. I hope this will be a fun challenge and that a few years from now we will look back and be pleased that in 2005 we met the challenge and made room for our new friends...yet to arrive.

Namaste, Bill

Second Service Workshop Results in Proposal

Representatives of seven committees, the board, and our entire senior staff met in a workshop on October 1 to explore ideas for a second service model that will meet the needs of our growing congregation. The group quickly came to an understanding that in order to fulfill our mission by accommodating new members, we need to expand the times that we offer worship services and children's religious education. Average adult attendance currently totals about 220 in both the service and in the children's program. The main constraint we now have is in parking. Our parking lot can only park enough cars to allow us to grow another 10 to

15% or about 50 members. Our current membership is approximately 300 adults with 50 children in our RE program.

We want to increase membership in all age groups, and we don't want to divide the congregation in any way other than by time preference on Sunday mornings. We also want to assure that the high quality of our program is maintained. To accomplish these goals, the group developed a basic model:

1. Two services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

2. Children's RE at both times for all age groups through middle school. YRUU (high school ages) will meet only once at 12:30 p.m.

3. Coffee Hour will be offered between services and after the 11:00 a.m. service.

Numerous questions regarding specific details must still be answered, and our committees are working through those. Members and friends of UUC will have ample opportunity to discuss the plan in the weeks ahead. This is an important step in the growth of our congregation and you can expect to receive additional information about it soon.

Social Justice Committee

The UU Service Committee (UUSC) is our own UU human rights organization. Its work puts our most basic UU principles and values into action. This month we will be sponsoring two projects to support the UUSC. Your participation is crucial. The work of the UUSC is largely supported from contributions from UU individuals. We join hundreds of communities nationwide as we celebrate the thirtieth year of our special tradition, Guest at Your Table, and participate in the selling of the beautiful UUSC holiday cards.

On November 20 during the service, Guest at Your Table boxes will be distributed. They will be collected on January 29. Remember you can become a member of the UUSC by filling out the bottom of the box before you turn in your contribution. UUSC holiday cards go on sale early in November. Buy them early because last year we sold out quickly. Please visit the Social Justice table to find out more about the important work the UUSC is doing all around the world.

On November 27, the Social Justice Committee will be sponsoring another UUC tradition, the Mitten Tree. In cooperation with ASAP, a local non profit group serving the AIDS community in Pinellas County, we will once again make a child's holiday wish come true. You will have an opportunity to choose a mitten from the tree and purchase the items listed for a child whose life has been impacted by AIDS. The children in our RE made the mittens. So stop by the Mitten Tree after the service on the 27th.

The fair trade coffee Project is going so well that we are expanding our items for sale to include tea, cocoa and chocolate bars. YUM! All of these products are fair trade products. This means the profit goes to the farmers in the developing countries rather than to the "middle man." Fair trade coffee and other products will be on sale on November 13.

After the social hour (around 12:30 p.m.) on November 13, join us for a light lunch and a viewing of the new documentary on Wal-Mart, "The High Cost of Low Prices." The UUC is participating in the nationwide

release of this new film made by Robert Greenwald, the maker of the documentary "Outfoxed." This free showing is open to the public, so tell your friends.

Two community events you might want to attend are "Mapping a Culture of Peace," a community discussion sponsored by the Coalition of Peace and Justice, and the eighteenth annual Soup Supper, a fundraiser for the National Farm Workers Ministry sponsored by the Pinellas Farm Workers Support Group. The peace community discussion will be on November 12 at Eckerd College's Fox Hall from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon. The Soup Supper will be on November 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapel on the Hill, 12601 Park Blvd North in Seminole. Amy Carol Webb will be performing. If anyone is interested in attending either of these events and needs a ride or can offer a ride call Linda Stoller at 442-3551.

Our next Social Justice Committee meeting will be on November 5 at 9:30 a.m. in the Octagon. Please join us.

UUA Trustee Tidbits

By the time you read this column I will have returned from the October Trustees meeting but in keeping with newsletter deadlines I am not able to write about the meeting now. Thus another subject that has interested me for some time: The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF). The IARF is the oldest international religious foundation, and it now has more than 100 member groups. It is a 105 year old association with an interesting history. Founded in 1900 as an organization to bring together people "striving to unite Pure Religion and Perfect Liberty," today the IRAF's purpose is to work for freedom of religion and belief because it is a precious human right that potentially enables the best within our religious lives and/or our search for truth or enlightenment.

Originally the IARF was called the International Council of Unitarian and Other Liberal Religious Thinkers and Workers (quite a title). The Council evolved in many steps from a mostly Unitarian, North American organization, to one with global and interfaith representation. One turning point occurred near the end of the 1960s when, spurred in part by shifts in Roman Catholic teaching, there was a growth in the institutional representation in inter-religious activity around the world. One outgrowth of this was the founding of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP). Today, the IARF and the WCRP work together in a collegial relationship. Another turning point was in 1993, with the centennial observance of the 1893 Parliament of World's Religions, which showed great interest in interfaith organizations. There has been concern

expressed about the ease in which organizations like the IRAF become a marketplace where religious conviction and spiritual wisdom become commodities. This is why the UUA remains strongly supportive of the IARF and the WCRP, but maintains cautiously apart from other interfaith organizations that are not of an international nature. For interfaith cooperation to be genuine, it needs to contain the liberal spirit, which has always encouraged tolerance and critical thinking about religion, often not found in what today is being promoted as "inter-faith."

I remember at General Assembly in June, the Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, minister in Clearwater, introducing the guests from the IARF, including the Rev. Dr. Daryl Balia, General Secretary of the IARF, who, with the IARF Council, is planning a March 2006 IARF Congress. If my information is correct, UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford will be in Taiwan for this important meeting. The Congress will focus on the role of religion in family, community life, and politics.

Thanks again for your support and comments each month. I always enjoy hearing from Florida District UUs, and can be reached at jlund@uua.org or (813) 931-9727.

Joan Lund

Split the Plate Sunday November 13, 2005

We sent \$407.50 to the Clothesline Project of Tampa Bay from October's Split the Plate collection. This month our help is badly needed by brother and sister Unitarians in small villages in a valley in northwestern Romania. Last month they were hit by an eight foot wall of water caused by heavy rains in the mountains above their valley. Roads and bridges were washed away and homes and livestock destroyed. Several Unitarians died. The UUA is committed to helping these Transylvanian Unitarians get help quickly. Winter is fast approaching. Please have your checkbooks ready and be generous on November 13.



Rides to UUC Needed!

Hello, my name is Sharis Coleman-Derr. I am visually impaired and am always looking for rides to and from church for choir practice (Wednesday nights 7:00-9:00 p.m.) and for Sunday service (must be at church at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays that the choir is singing and 10:30 a.m. on all other Sundays). I live at The Columns at East Bay (right behind the Outback Steak House on East Bay Drive; nearest cross Street is Belcher) at 3660 East Bay Drive Apt # 1311, Largo, FL, 33771. Please contact me if you can help. Call home telephone **230-0351** or cell **366-2291** or e-mail shariscd@tampabay.rr.com.

Thanks!

Membership Committee

Welcome to New Members

On October 9th, we welcomed seven new members into our congregation. It's always a pleasure to introduce these new faces to all of you. They are an interesting and diverse group of people, as always!

Trish Dempsey is a Florida transplant, originally from Washington, D.C. She has lived in states up and down the eastern seaboard and in California. She enjoys meeting new people from all walks of life. Trish is an actress, with credits in film, TV, and theater. She is well known for her work in the horror genre and is producing and directing "The Best Little Horror House in Clearwater" right here at UUC over Halloween weekend. Her theater company is Snazzyact Productions.

Chris Ewbank was born in Tampa-- a Florida native!! He is 28 years old and works at Freedom Scientific as a technical writer. He and his wife, Sarah, have been married for three and a half years. Before coming to UUC, Chris was a Catholic, then an atheist. He now considers himself a Zen Buddhist.

Sarah Ewbank, Chris's wife, was born in Ames, Iowa. She is a graduate student at USF in Library and Information Science. Her bachelor's degree is in English Literature from USF (St. Pete). Sarah is 26 years old, and has been with Chris since they were teenagers--ten and a half years.

The Iyer family consists of Mohan, Laura, eight year old Nathan and five year old Ryan. The Iyers have been UUs for over ten years in several congregations, including Cincinnati, Brookfield, WI, Houston and now Clearwater. Mohan grew

up in India, receiving a bachelor's degree, then coming to New York and earning his master's in chemical engineering. A change in life's direction took him to Cincinnati where he graduated from medical school. Laura grew up in the foothills of Tennessee. She went to Cincinnati for employment as a jet engine design engineer. There she met and married Mohan. Nathan and Ryan joined the family soon after. After moving around as Mohan finished his medical training, they settled in St. Petersburg. Laura turned in her slide rule for a promotion to full time home manager, and Mohan is a retina surgeon. They are very happy to have found this congregation and look forward to becoming part of this community.

Joe Morgan attended the Jimmy Hoffa School of Labor where he received his degree in labor justice and Hell-Raising! He likes reading, biking, kayaking, ice hockey, and sunsets on Clearwater Beach and Honeymoon Island. Joe was raised a Southern Baptist, and found UU because of his humanist beliefs. Joe works with the National Farm Workers ministry. Too many children have to work in the fields, are injured and too many die. Joe will spend the rest of his life working to stop the injustice in the fields. The best way to describe Joe as a person comes from a quote from Leo Tolstoy, "All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love."

Richard ((Rich) Preston moved to Tampa two years ago from Atlanta where he was a member of the UU Congregation of Atlanta for twenty years. He is 59 years old, single,

and lives in Tampa Palms. He is a civil engineer and has spent most of his career dealing with transportation structures, such as bridges, tunnels, and retaining walls. Rich was attracted to UUC because it is the largest UU congregation in the Tampa Bay area, and the building reminded him of the round church in Atlanta. He began attending soon after arriving in the area, and has been a regular visitor including going to Open Issues.

Welcome, all of you, to our community. I hope you find a home here among us, and if there is any way we can help you, please let us know.

UU Buddhist Fellowship of Tampa Bay

The UUBF will meet for the first three Wednesdays of November. That is, we will meet



November 2, November 9 and November 16 and NOT meet the last two Wednesdays of November. Our meetings consist of meditation, Buddhist and human rights-related films, spirited discussion, and planning future events. For more information, contact Frank Tedesco at frankmtedesco@yahoo.com or call 391-1152 or 512-4805.

Worship Services

Nov. 6, 2005

BUTTERFLIES IN FORMATION

Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran & Millie Rochester

A spirituality of personal risk taking for the thinking UU -- and why it matters. Rev. Killoran is Minister Emerita of the UU Church of Asheville NC, a certified life coach, and a grandmother of 9 -- which (she says) should constitute enough risk-taking for any one life! Maureen served as minister of Millie Rochester's home congregation in Salem, Oregon in the 1980's, and is proud to have been present at the moment when . . . but that's a story for later in the day. Sufficient to say she's delighted to be with us as we celebrate our Covenant Ceremony with Rev. Millie Rochester.

Nov. 6, 2005, 4 PM

COVENANTING CEREMONY

Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran, Rev. Mary Higgins, Millie Rochester, Abhi Janamanchi & Others

Join us for a very special service to welcome Rev. Millie Rochester as our Assistant Minister for Lifespan Religious Education. Children are welcome. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.

Nov. 13, 2005

UNIVERSALISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Abhi Janamanchi & Jinene Harvey, Worship Associate

Universalism took American society by storm proclaiming salvation for everyone and benevolent nature of God. It gave people "not hell, but hope." The service will explore the history and development of American Universalism and its relevance to today.

Nov. 20, 2005

A HARVEST OF THANKS

Abhi Janamanchi

Given the state of affairs in the world today and the amount of stress and anxiety we carry in our lives, cultivating a thankful heart can be quite challenging. The state of being thankful can transform our lives. And we don't have to wait until we are facing our last breath to be thankful. There many ways of getting into that mind state which we can practice every day. The service will explore the issue further.

Nov. 27, 2005

KOKOPELLI & THE ISLAND OF CHANGE

Michael Sterns & Millie Rochester

Michael Sterns, author and storyteller, returns with a colorful, effervescent rendition of his second book, Kokopelli & the Island of Change.

Open Issues Forum

November 6 "Getting to Know You."

Millie Rochester, our new assistant minister comes to Open Issues!

November 9 **Wednesday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. "A Group Tour of the Pinellas County Jail"**

with Eliseo Santana, C.C.M.

Eliseo Santana is Supervisor of Communications Maintenance for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Tour is limited to the first 15 persons who sign up. Call Eliseo for more information at 366-7106 or sign up by calling the church office.

November 13 **"Impressions of the Jail Tour"**

Eliseo Santana

Participants will present their "Impressions of the Jail Tour."

November 20 **"Prescription Drug Plan D"**

Phillip Compton

Finding your way through the labyrinth. Phillip is from the Florida Consumers Action Network.

November 27 **"A Second Service at UUC"**

Dorothy Wylie

The discussion will be lead by Dorothy and members of the Committee on how this will affect Open Issues Forum.

Open Issues Forum Committee

Dot and Chuck 797-7784 Marion Davis 527-1192
Sollinger Herb Blume 461-5414

Dorothy Wylie 797-5736 Joseph Kolb 733-1420

John Chase 784-1234 Charlene Carnes, Liaison

NOVEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service 12:30 PM PSI Symposium (P) 8:00 PM - 12:00 PM Best Lil Horror House in Clearwater(S)	31 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 8:00 PM - 12:00 PM Best Lil Horror House in Clearwater(S)	1 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Colossal Book Sale Set-Up (S) 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Leadership Training Program (P) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	2 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Colossal Book Sale Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM YAC 7:00 PM Program Council (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM UUBF Buddhist Discussion (s) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C) 7:00 PM - 9:00 AM Committee on Ministry (W)	3 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Colossal Book Sale Set-Up (S) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Children/Youth RE Committee (L)	4 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Colossal Book Sale Set-Up (S, W, P, L) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch with Ministers (W) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Member Book Sale & Dessert Party (W,S,P) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (CL)	5 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Colossal Book Sale Open to Public(S, P, L) 9:30 AM Social Justice Comm (W) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Indian Dance Program (O) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
6 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Colossal Book Sale (S,P) 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM HIV Testing (E) 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM Visitor Orientation 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Millie Rochester Covenanting Services (O) 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Book Sale (S,L,P)	7 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S) 9:00 PM - 5:00 PM Book Sale Clean-Up (S,P)	8 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Sr. Adults Committee (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Leadership Training Program (P) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	9 5:00 PM Finance Committee (P) 6:30 PM Executive Committee (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM UUBF Buddhist Discussion (s) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	10 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Interweave (W)	11 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Martinmas (Playground) 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM Lighting Repair (O) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Welcoming Reception UU singles 40+ (P) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L)	12 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Hazelden Workshop (S) 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Lighting Repair (O) 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM West Coast Cluster (W) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Choir Concert (O) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
13 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service 12:15 PM - 2:30 PM Music Committee (C) 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM RE Parents' Meeting 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM "Walmart - The High Cost of Low Prices" (P)	14 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM UUUW Games & Card Night (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S)	15 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Devotional Concert - Nakshabandi Surfs (O) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	16 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ben Wilcox - Common Cause (P) 6:30 PM Board Meeting (P) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BBLUF Buddhist Discussion (S) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Ways and Means Committee (at Brandts)	17 12:00 PM Religious Services Com (W) 2:00 PM Women's Book Club (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Adult RE (L)	18 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Suncoast Assembly (S) 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L) 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Brian Joseph Concert (O)	19 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM BARCC Energy Conference (O) 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Foreign Film UU Singles 40+ (P) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
20 OCTAGRAM DEADLINE 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM RE Sponsored Lunch \$5.00 (S)	21 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S)	22 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	23	24 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM Private Event (S)	25 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Men's Night Out (offsite)	26 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Spiritquest Vendor's Fair 8:00 PM AA (P or W)
27 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P) 10:30 AM Service (O) 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM PSI Symposium Meeting 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Kelly Reaves Reception (O, Lobby) 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dress Rehearsal (O) 5:30 PM Sunset Ritual at Indian Rocks Beach	28 9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Toastmasters (S)	29 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM Eurythmy Class (P) 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Meditation (O) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA (W)	30 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM UUBF Buddhist Discussion (s) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Chorale Rehearsal (O/C)	1 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Hanging new art show (Octagon) 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Children/Youth RE Committee (L)	2 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch with Ministers (W) 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM Assembly of Friends Party 7:00 PM Zen Buddhist Meditation (L) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Dorothy Gardiner Reception (O, Lobby)	3 9:30 AM Social Justice Comm (W) 8:00 PM AA (P or W)

For the most current information please refer to the online calendar at:

<http://www.uuclearwater.org>

Children's Religious Education

Greetings from Children's RE and YRUU! We would like to share with you the wonderful events of October. On the 16th, we proudly hosted our first playground luncheon and it was a smashing success. We wish to thank all of the wonderful volunteers at the RE luncheon. Many parents donated their time and love into preparing delicious baked ziti dishes and the ingredients for salad, garlic bread, and a sundae bar. Without your generous donations of time and food we could not have been successful. Thank you to Al Weaver, Roseanne Silverman, Dotti Doyle, Kathy Curry, Judy Preuss, Meena Saxena, Ashlynn

DeCosta – Ponnudurrai, Jenn Bernsdorff, Kathy Krohn, Elizabeth Cohen, Charlotte Olson, Millie Rochester, and Maralyn Toman. Please excuse any omissions and accept our gratitude. Special thanks to Soledad Loba for her amazing planning skills, catering “know-how” and support!

Thank you also to the congregation for supporting our efforts on behalf of the playground. The children and adults alike were so fortunate to witness our whole community coming together for this event. We hope you enjoyed lunch and will join us at the second Playground Luncheon on November 20!

That same weekend, our YRUU youth and advisors attended the Sarasota Con and came back refreshed and inspired. It was a sight to see as they walked up on Sunday with huge smiles on their faces.

We will celebrate the second RE Special Celebration: Divali (The Festival of Lights) and All Souls' Day on the October 30.

Happy Thanksgiving! Jane Farkas, RE Assistant, and Elizabeth Cobin, Children's Religious Education Chair

Special Events Committee

We Need to Put a Smile on Our Kitchen

Many of kitchenware items are missing. As we are getting ready for holidays, we will appreciate the return of any items you may have borrowed from our Social Hall kitchen and forgotten to bring them back.

Donations are always welcome. We only ask for the items to be in good condition without stains or cracks. We are in need of the following: banquet tablecloths, blender, can openers, dish towels, measuring cups, mixer, oven mitts, punch bowls and ladles, serving ware, trays, wine glasses, candles, and decorations.

Please leave all items on the kitchen counter with a labeled note with your name and a face with a smile.

Gracias,

– Soledad,
Special Event Coordinator

The Octagon Arts Center Proudly Presents

Brian Joseph In Concert

Friday, November 18, 2005
7:30 p.m.
\$12 Advance/\$15 at Door
Children Free



Five years ago, Brian Joseph walked precariously away from a burgeoning acting career, and hasn't looked back. Resembling a young Tom Waits in his goatee and pork pie hat, blessed with "a soulfully warm voice with just the right degree of husky catch and tremble" and tagged as a folk flavored troubadour with comparisons that range from John Prine to Paul Simon and Randy Newman, he's now up to his third album and has clearly attracted some impressive admirers.

Property Management Committee

Request for a Gas-Powered Edger

With the expansion of our parking lot come more maintenance demands. The grass needs to be edged regularly to maintain the boundaries of our parking areas. If anyone has an edger they can donate or know where to get a great price on one please contact Ashlynn DeCosta-Ponnudurai at 510-4811 or email ad69dd99@hotmail.com.

The Property Committee wishes to thank all the volunteers who attended our Fall Work Party on October 15. The focus of this Work Party was to clean up around The Manse and the new parking lot. We pulled weeds, mulched, removed more Brazilian Pepper trees, “weed-ate” the fence-lines, and painted parking lines. Janine and our volunteers are the reason why our property is looking so good and we appreciate everything they do.

Entertainment Books

Since we are certain that everyone wants to have an Entertainment Book for their own use, and one to share with a friend, we will continue the sale through Nov. 6. There are many bargains and discounts in the book for you, and each book sold will reap dollars for UUC. Please come to our sale table in the Social Hall after services or call Betty Upson-Schmitz at 392-6390.

Holiday Bake Sale

A Bake Sale, sponsored by the UU Women's Umbrella, will be held after Sunday services on Sunday, December 11. Please bring your donations of cookies, pies, nuts, jams, brownies, etc to the Social Hall on either Saturday, December 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a fun, festive fundraiser. Chairpersons: Anneliese Ekberg, 531-2219, and Lois Perry, 542-3113.

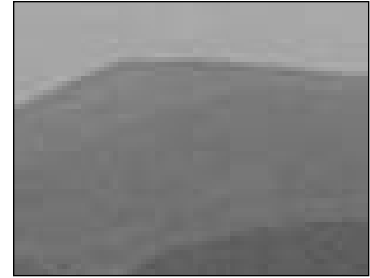
UU Women's Umbrella Group (UWU) Announces Fun and Games!

Ladies do you like to play games? Mark your calendars. Join us every second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Patio Room. Our next get together is November 14. Bring a drink or snack to share and your favorite game. Play Texas Hold Em, Scrabble, Uno, Chess or whatever is your fancy. This is a great opportunity for the women of UUC to get to know and enjoy one another. Hope you can join us.

For further info contact
Arlene Alldredge 796-0260 or
Jeanie Shimer 517-3801

Discounts for SUUSI

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute is the second largest gathering of UUs in the world which meets the third week of July. And, if you'd like, you may attend this great event at a reduced cost! SUUSI Scholarship applications are accepted between April 15 and May 15, 2006. Also, have tons of fun by joining one of the many great SUUSI staffs and you'll receive credit! Additional information, applications and e-mail



address contacts may be found on the web at www.suusi.org. Plan now to attend the best vacation week of your life!

Paul Langrock

Elderhostel at UU in the Pines

UU in the Pines is a UU conference center in west central Florida that specializes in Elderhostel programs that explore Florida wilderness. The 2005 course, "Explore Florida's Ecosystems from the Water Up: Canoeing Three Rivers," will be held November 13 - 18. A slow-paced, mostly downstream, seven-to-ten mile canoe trip will be taken on three different days returning each day to The Pines for supper and sleeping. See plants, animals, reptiles, and birds, and their interaction with one another and man.

For more information contact UU in the Pines directly at (352) 796-4457 or email uupines@bellsouth.net, or contact Elderhostel at (877) 426-8056 or www.elderhostel.org.

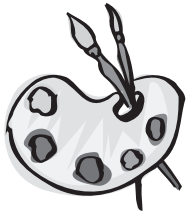
Annual Men's Retreat

April 7 - 9, 2006, at UU in the Pines! Mark your calendars. It's our fourteenth or fifteenth! All UUC men are invited. Don't miss it!

Paul Langrock
784-6597

Jesus Seminar Coming to Pinellas Park Very Soon

Robert J. Miller and Roy W. Hoover of the Jesus Seminar will be offering "Jesus from Cradle to Grave" Friday and Saturday, November 11 - 12. Registration is \$60. Register online at- events@westarinstitute.org The seminar will be held at Good Samaritan Church, 6085 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.



Art Committee News

There have been many favorable comments on the lovely diptych mural high overhead in the Social Hall. It's entitled "Sunset Bay." We enjoyed its serene beauty behind the pulpit all summer during the Members Art Show. So that we can continue to enjoy it, the artist, Melissa Nece, discounted its price, and a group of UUC members made contributions that enabled us to buy it. We are very grateful to these members as well as to Melissa and to Bill Newton who voluntarily undertook the precarious job of hanging it.

Celebration of Art, the current art show of Kelly Reaves, will be on display through November. A reception to meet the artist will be Sunday, November 27 at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The reason the reception will be held near the end of the show is that Kelly is an art student in Chicago and she will not be home here until the Thanksgiving holidays.

*Charlene Carnes,
Chair of Art Committee*

Social Bridge

The Social Bridge on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. will resume in the Patio Room as soon as we have at least 8 players. During the summer we have been on vacation. We hope to restart ASAP. Please call either Anneliese Ekberg at 531-2219 or Betty Upson-Schmitz at 392-6390, or the UUC office at 531-7704 if you would like to play. Hope to see you there.

UU Singles Fellowship 40+

In an effort to reflect the purpose of our group, we are no longer a club but a *fellowship*. The Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater Singles Fellowship is a program of the church that provides a safe and caring space for singles of ages 40 and above to come together to socialize and build friendships. All activities have a focus of meaningful exchange in a social, but non-dating atmosphere. It is a place and time for people who are single members or friends of UUC to meet and enjoy healthy relaxed time together.

Thanks to all the UU Board Members for their commitment and effort toward the success of this program, in particular, Barbara Brandt and Lois Perry for their interest and assistance in the development of our group procedures. A special thanks to Barbara Buckland and Abhi Janamanchi, for their help and guidance in the creation of our new Fellowship Guidelines.

Soledad Loba will continue her duties as Chairperson. Edward Kraemer will also remain as Finance Advisor. We want more volunteers to assist with the publicity and events of our fellowship.

For more information about our purpose and guidelines, contact Soledad Loba at 576-8003 or email soledad_loba@hotmail.com.

Welcoming Reception

Friday, November 11

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Patio Room

\$3 Donation or Free to Sign-up Volunteers

Welcome new members, have refreshments, enjoy dance lessons.

Foreign Film Series & Reception

Saturday, November 19

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Patio Room

\$5 Donation or

Free to Sign-up Volunteers

Babette's Feast (1987)

Danish with English subtitles

Director Gabriel Axel

Academy Award Best Foreign

Language Film

Based on an Isak Dinesen short story, on the Danish seacoast, in the late 19th century, two elderly sisters living in a village of modest, abstinent puritans take a French housekeeper and cook named Babette. Babette prepares a magnificent feast for them and the village elders, having an extraordinary effect.

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 24

We would like to insure that every one of our members shares with each other on Thanksgiving Day. If you are (1) hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and wish to share with one or two of our members or (2) wanting to come as a guest at a member's home, please contact Soledad Loba by Sunday, November 20th to make the necessary arrangements, 576-8003 or email soledad_loba@hotmail.com.

Sunset Ritual at

Indian Rocks Beach

Sunday, November 27

On Gulf Boulevard, between 24th and 25th Streets

Beach Access Parking

5:30 until sunset. Free.

Bring Snacks to share and your favorite song or poem

Native American Ceremony and Buddhist Closing Meditation

How Much Oil Is Still Unused...On the Whole Earth?

Intuitively you know that there is a finite amount of oil on the Earth, right? Well, how much is still available for our consumption? And how long will it take to use it all up?

These questions have profound implications for every human being! Just think about it for a moment and you will realize that we have a very big problem on our hands, especially if the supply of oil drops off quickly.

If you want answers to these and other questions about our energy future, please plan to attend a UUC-sponsored conference on "Peak Oil." This conference will feature

the showing of a video entitled "The End of Suburbia," which will be followed by a panel discussion facilitated by WMNF's Rob Lorei and including experts in oil production, food distribution, transportation and social justice.

The conference is free of charge and will be held on Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be available.

If you think gas costs a lot now, just wait. But don't just wait around without understanding what you can do to deal with this mega-world problem. To register, call the UUC Office at 531-7704 or email bnor-worthy@verizon.net.

Email Notices and Addresses

Every week, email messages on UUC updates are sent to congregation members. If you are not receiving these emails, please email Sue Boone at:

mail@uuclearwater.org.

Hosts Needed for Interweave Convo Participants

Our Unitarian Universalist congregation has a wonderful opportunity to host the next Interweave Convocation the weekend of February 24, 25 and 26, 2006. The Octagon and our other facilities will be available for classes of various subjects taught by experienced and interesting teachers dedicated to the spiritual, political, and social well-being of Unitarian Universalists who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons and their heterosexual allies. We will also celebrate the culture and lives of these members by hosting a dinner sometime during the weekend and presenting a special

Worship service on Sunday.

In order to accommodate the needs of those attending the Interweave Convo, we are asking for volunteers to open their homes to those from out of town who will be in need of a place to stay. If you happen to have an extra bedroom to share from Thursday evening February 23 through Saturday night February 25, please contact Barbara Shimer at 385-8556.

This is a great opportunity for us as members of UUC to show our support for the Interweave Convo. Thank you!

Name Tags

Name tags are important. Please wear them. If you need a new one just sign your name on the "Request" clipboard at the Visitors Desk and you will have a new one the following week.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

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Subscriptions: An annual donation of \$15.00 to cover publishing and postage costs is requested from non members who do not make contributions of record to UUC. Thank you for your support.

OCTAGRAM

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists
of Clearwater, Inc. Octagon Arts Center

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Pianist **Linda Jones**

Facilities Manager **Janine Tompkins**

Octagram Crew

Editor **Nancy Warner**

Graphic Artist **Wayne Barrette**

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

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

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

*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions to the church
office by mail, drop off in the Octagram mailbox,
or by email to mail@uuclearwater.org. Deadline
for December issue is November 20th, 2005.*

**Sunday Worship Services
are at 10:30 am**
Visit: www.uuclearwater.org