



# Domelight



Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa  
Rev. Sara Zimmerman, Minister

February 2009  
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

## Minister's Musings

Rev. Sara Zimmerman



Hello Everyone,

I would like to encourage you to sign up for the Adult Religious Education class called "Building Your Own Theology II." We'll gather for the first class on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

and meet until no later than 9 PM. At 8PM we'll take a break and have a snack. We'll meet for five sessions: on February 5th, 12th, 26th, and March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby.

"So what if I didn't take Building Your Own Theology I," you ask.

It's OK. BYOT II doesn't cover exactly the same ground. You can take BYOT I, II and III whenever they cycle around. All three are Pathway to Membership classes. If you are interested in joining this church, this is a great way to start.

"What if I did take BYOT I. What's new about BYOT II?" you ask.

It focuses on the sources of Unitarian Universalism. If you already have written your 'this I believe statement,' your *credo*, it will encourage you to build on it.

"What kind of preparations would I need to make?" you ask.

Here's what to bring: a notebook of some sort, preferably a 3-ring binder, for note taking and materials. Bring your credo from BYOT I (if you

took that course and if your credo is available), because you will refer to it and add to it.

Fill out the Credo Survey and do the Reading for Session I.

"Where can I get the Survey and the reading materials?" you ask.

There is a copy of the curriculum in the office (it's bright yellow). Ask our office administrator Jamie Hendrickx or someone who knows the fax machine/copier to help you copy pages xviii through xxviii. Those pages include the Credo Survey and the Reading for Session I.

"OK, that sounds do-able, and I am looking forward to taking the Credo Survey. Can you give me a sample question?" you ask.

Certainly. *Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'There has been progress in the history of human civilization.' Why?*

"OK, I'll think about that," you say. "What else would I need to do before the attending Session I?" you ask.

For the most fun of all, access [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com) and complete the "Belief-o-matic" and "What's Your Spiritual Type" surveys found there. If you don't have access to the Internet, ask someone at your local library to help you with this.

Be well, see you in February,

*Rev. Sara*

## Circles In The Woods CUUPS

By Chris Hendrickx



Circles in the Woods CUUPS (Convenent of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is a committee within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa.

### Full Moon Celebrations:

We host Full Moon Celebrations on the Saturday closest to the Full Moon at 7:30PM followed by shared feasting. This is an open family event, so yes, children are welcome! However, childcare is **not** provided, so parents **are** responsible for the care of their children. Donations to help pay for the upkeep of the property are welcome!

First-time ritual attendees, those interested in Wicca or Paganism, and their families are welcomed and encouraged to attend! You do not have to have ritual experience to be part of the Celebration. We welcome all those who come in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust!!

Upcoming Rituals: **Feb 7th:** Members of Sacred Oaks Circle will present a community wiccaning, so bring the babes for a blessing. A wiccaning is a blessing, meant to protect the children and guide their spiritual development until they are old enough to make their own decision.

Upcoming Classes: All are welcome at meetings and classes. For our Wicca 101 classes we do ask for a donation of \$5.00 per class or \$30 for the 6 class series. All money goes directly to UUCT. Classes are from 7-9pm.

Wicca 101 classes in February:  
**February 9<sup>th</sup>:** Magick and Ethics  
**February 16<sup>th</sup>:** The Wheel of the Year

For more information on CUUPS, contact CUUPS facilitator, Ollis Hughes (813-684-8026 or [sunfiresage@juno.com](mailto:sunfiresage@juno.com)).

## Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary



The planning for the new building continues. There will be a Congregational meeting in February with the results of the study, by Dave Rickert, UUA consultant, on the amount of capital UUCT can raise. The ultimate decision to go forward, or not, will be made at this meeting so watch for the exact date and plan on attending. Also, check out the website for continued information at [http://www.uutampa.org/capital\\_campaign.htm](http://www.uutampa.org/capital_campaign.htm).

The BOT would like to encourage everyone to participate in the Bring a Friend Sunday and be sure to take time to welcome our visitors during coffee hour. Our children and youth will be collecting Pennies for Peace for the next two or three months so save that copper and help them out!

The UUCT Bylaws are now posted on the website at [http://www.uutampa.org/pdf\\_docs/By-laws.pdf](http://www.uutampa.org/pdf_docs/By-laws.pdf). This is part of an effort to continued communication improvements by the BOT. If you would like more detailed Board of Trustee information, please see the most recent copy of the approved Board meeting minutes posted in a binder under the bulletin board in the hallway, or ask any Board member. Board of Trustee members include:

- Ed Benedict - President
- Tempie Taudte - Vice President
- Bill Blymiller - Treasurer
- Mary Francis - Secretary
- Rom Delacroix
- Kathy Hunter
- Ralph Lehman
- Russell Patterson
- Diana Stevens

*Domelight* is published monthly by:  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa  
11400 Morris Bridge Rd  
Tampa, FL 33637-1902  
(813)988-8188

Download from <http://www.uutampa.org> free of charge. For a 1 year subscription by mail, please make a \$15.00 donation to the church office. Mark it **DOMELIGHT SUBSCRIPTION**. *Domelight* deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Firm deadline for the next issue is at the end of service on **Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>** Articles may be submitted by e-mail to [Domelight@uutampa.org](mailto:Domelight@uutampa.org)  
**Submissions should include a contact name and phone number.** Editor: Liz Bleau

## **Green Group Upcoming Meetings:**

The Green Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (February 8 & 22) from 9:45 - 10:45 am in the Gazebo for facilitated discussion of environmental issues. Our intention is to use UU discussion books and refer to articles that individuals have clipped to share. We also plan to meet once a month at Lettuce Lake Park prior to service. The park location will be posted in weekly announcement and on the listserv. All other times, feel free to drop by the Gazebo to share in discussion with whomever is present.

## **When Trash Becomes Treasure**

Kathi Dorman of the Green Group

Did you know that items we trash can be used again? Your favorite magazines can be recycled. Magazines can be exchanged with friends. Always read magazines with your kids and grandkids. Be ready to share ideas and explain articles to your listeners. Then, let the children take them to school or R.E. for projects.



Paper bags can be reused as dress up clothes for kids and grandkids. Some teachers use paper bags in the classroom to make costumes for Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, and other holidays. Small paper bags make magnificent puppets, hats, and treat bags.

Newspapers can be sent to classrooms for various activities. They are terrific to spread out on tables or desks for messy art projects. The comics make interesting wrapping paper for kids' gifts. Newspapers are a classic for lining bird cages. Many veterinarians accept newspapers to line the cages for their animals. Teachers and parents can use newspapers to get their kids to read. Boys often like the sports section and girls often like the fashion tips. The articles are short to read which makes reluctant readers happy.

See what you can do to reuse items. Share your creative ideas. Our earth and those you love will thank you.

## **FRIENDSHIP DINNER NEWS**

The February Friendship Dinner will be a cozy intimate dinner at the home of Robin Leigh in Seffner on Feb. 7 at 6:30pm. Her address is 1003 Park Street. As she only has room for 6 guests, sign up quickly. The sign up sheet will be posted in the church hallway just outside the sanctuary doors. If someone else comes forward in the mean time wanting to host an additional dinner I will send an email to the list serve and an additional sign up sheet will be posted.

If you are new to UUCT or have never attended a Friendship Dinner, here is how it works: the dinners are usually held on the second Saturday of the month but as you can see from this months dinner that can be changed to fit the host's schedule. A sign-up sheet indicating date and time and how many guests the host can accommodate will be posted at church for folks to sign up and that list will be given to the host the Sunday before the Dinner date. The main course is usually the responsibility of the host but that is not carved in stone. The host calls all interested parties to delegate the rest of the meal...appetizer, side dishes, wine, bread, dessert, etc., and give directions if need be. The rest is pure fun, conversation and great food. There is no better way to get to know fellow UUCT'ers on a one to one basis. So if you have never been a host or attended a dinner this is a great time to get a taste (ha) of what it is like.

If you would like to host a dinner in the future please contact me at [mrobins7@verizon.net](mailto:mrobins7@verizon.net) <mailto:[mrobins7@verizon.net](mailto:mrobins7@verizon.net)> or call 813/985-4777.



## **Reflections:**

**Katie Culbert, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth**

This month children all over the country will trade cute cards wrapped in tiny envelopes with sayings like, "Bee my Friend!" and "I'm NUTS about you!" They'll eat chocolate kisses, lollipops, conversation hearts (TEXT ME! YOU'RE SWEET! BFF!) and

loads of other sugar delights in celebration of Valentine's Day. I love Valentine's Day. I think it is the ultimate Unitarian Universalist holiday. My personal UU theology is grounded in a belief that God is Love and that Love flows through each of us and connects us all. It is Love that inspires our UU principles. It is Love that makes us whole and encourages us to work towards wholeness for all people. Valentine's Day gives us all a special moment in time to celebrate Love and tell all the people around us just how much we love them. And, of course, it gives us a reason to indulge in one of the greatest creations on the planet, chocolate. How fabulous is that?

This month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day in church with our first annual **BRING-A-FRIEND** Sunday! **On February 15, the day after Valentine's Day, bring a friend to our intergenerational worship and share the LOVE of UUCT!** The worship service will be geared towards visitors of all ages with basic information about Unitarian Universalism and will be followed by a special potluck during our fellowship time. This event is being co-sponsored by the RE Committee, the Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees, who will be available after service to meet and greet our visiting friends.

**And speaking of LOVE...We LOVE our RE volunteers!** A big THANK-YOU to our most recent batch of RE teachers: Laurie Ennis, Kathi Dorman, Andrea NeCamp, Faye Turke, Reese Millican, & Kaarla McKenzie. Your contribution to our religious education program for children and youth displays your love for Unitarian Universalism and the youngest members of our congregation. THANK-YOU!!!

**Don't Forget! On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month there is a "Parents Potluck Picnic." (PPP!) This gathering is for families with children in the UUCT RE program. Come fellowship with other UU families while the kids play outside. Don't worry if you come without food, the RE Committee will be providing something each month – JUST JOIN US! At each picnic we will celebrate that month's birthday boys and girls! *The Bring-A-Friend Potluck***

*this month will be taking the place of February's PPP - the next scheduled PPP is March 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**Katie's office hours** February 1 – February 12: Monday and Tuesday 9:00am – 1:00pm; Thursday 3:00pm – 9:00pm. Monday, February 9: No church office hours. February 17 – February 26: Tuesday 4:00pm – 9:00pm; Wednesday and Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm



1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bring-A-Friend Sunday  
February 15, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

Hosted by the RE Committee, the Membership Committee,  
& the Board of Trustees

We all know at least one person who would enjoy a worship service at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa! Invite them on Bring-A-Friend Sunday and share the LOVE! Our intergenerational worship service will be geared towards visitors of all ages with basic information about Unitarian Universalism and will be followed by a special potluck during our fellowship time. Members of the RE Committee, the Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees will be available after service to meet and greet our visiting friends. The beloved community always has room for more – bring a friend on February 15<sup>th</sup>. (Please remember to bring a dish for the potluck!!!)

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

As we opened the new 2009 year, it was a pleasure to see that the numbers of attendees at Sunday services increased. Some of our seats are being filled by new comers coming to check us out, but there also appears to be an increase in attendance by regular members, old and



new. Over all, the sanctuary is regularly alive on Sundays with energy, chatter and enthusiasm. This is a condition of what I consider healthy village noise.

Why is there this new spirit? Does it come as the usual optimism that accompanies the start of the new calendar year? Or an overcompensating attitude to suppress the reality of the bleak economic situation of the country? ...Or perhaps the growing hope that comes from the anticipation that a long anticipated new multi-purpose education building might just be in our future? Whatever the cause of this new atmosphere I perceive, it is good to experience it.

For this Church, the month of January 2009 was a most decisive one. As I am writing this, we are still in the first half of the month of January, and in the dark as to the outcome of the last half of January. It was that critical time (the latter part of January), we completed our Confirmation Study. Its results will give us an indication if we can afford to go forward with plans for a Capital Campaign or put them on hold for bit. What ever that crucial decision is, to quote the Beatles, "let it be." Acceptance is the key to our successful future. – Ed Benedict, President of the Board of Trustees

## An Update

### THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Here's what has happened so far:

1. The Architecture Selection Committee recommended and the Board hired Hoffman Architects, P.A., of Tarpon Springs to design and oversee our Religious Education building project.
2. Using our "architectural program statement" as a guide, our Building Design committee has acted as liaison with the Hoffman architects as they created and presented preliminary plans for the building.

3. Capital Campaign chairs Ara Rogers and Pat Benedict drew up a "Case Statement" that defines our programs and their underlying philosophy, and explains specific goals as well as the fund-raising plan.
4. Domelight articles introduced the architects and Building Design committee members. Also a Question and Answer article described the procedure of the impending Confirmation Study.
5. Following discussion at the December 14 congregational meeting, the architect's preliminary Master Plans for the RE building were endorsed by the congregation.
6. Sunday announcements and skits publicized the Confirmation Study.

By the time you read this, interviews for the Confirmation Study will have been completed, and UUA Consultant Dave Rickard will be working on his report to the Board.

Join us in the Journey!

### UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

*Joan Lund*

In these uncertain economic times it is more important than ever for us to maintain our support for our home congregations, and our District and UUA. There are folks in the congregation and in your community who will need the spiritual and emotional support found by attending UU services and we need to be there for them as they face difficult financial times. If history is an indicator the economic downturn facing the U.S. will have an impact on charitable giving and this will effect congregations. It will be necessary for those of us who can continue to meet our pledges to our congregations and our wider Association to do so...and perhaps then some.



I also know some of our Florida congregations will be conducting annual stewardship drives in the spring so I offer some suggestions paraphrased from Laura Amabile, Director of the Annual Program Fund who recently wrote a piece after reading *Enjoy the Ride: How to Effectively Raise Funds in a Roller-coaster Economy*, by Mary Ellen Collins: 1) be prepared to articulate your congregation's vision and mission statement in compelling ways that elicit a high level of financial support, 2) build solid relationships in and among the congregation, 3) avoid a dramatic shift in the manner in which your congregation conducts the stewardship drive or any fund raising activities, 4) maintain strong communications about the activities going on in the congregation by spreading accurate news enthusiastically, 5) practice openness and accountability about the financial condition of the congregation, and 6) have the board meet regularly with the congregants to answer questions and keep the congregants informed about all that is going on within the congregation.

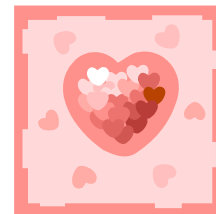
In addition I offer further thoughts to encourage congregations. Remember generosity is a spiritual issue of the heart. A spiritually mature person cannot move forward until it is understood that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". The conversation must move beyond boring stewardship to exciting generosity. Tell stories about how the generosity of persons had changed the life of your congregation and lives within the congregation. Keep building relationship trust within the congregation. Cease ineffective programs and activities in the congregation. And finally make it a practice to continually thank people for their time and financial generosity to the congregation, especially those persons/families who are pledging for the first time.

As you consider making plans for 2009 in the midst of economic uncertainty remember adaptations may be necessary in the overall ministry of your congregation. I know UUs will continue with our

faith and good works in the times ahead. Please email ([jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org)) or telephone me (813-931-9727) with thoughts, concerns, or with whatever you might like to communicate.

Saturday, February 14,  
2009

Valentine's Day Event at  
the Church



### Useful UU websites and news groups

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/UUTampa>

UUCT Social Justice: [uuctsocialaction-subscribe@yahoogroups](mailto:uuctsocialaction-subscribe@yahoogroups)

UUCT Worship Committee: [UUCT\\_WorshipCommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:UUCT_WorshipCommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Circles in the Woods CUUPS: [CIW\\_CUUPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:CIW_CUUPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

UUCT Green Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUCTGreenGroup>

### Calendar of weekly events at UUCT SUNDAY

9:45AM Green Group

11AM Sunday Service

11AM (Grades 1-12) Youth R.E. (Small Dome)

11AM Child Care for babies in the Nursery

### WEDNESDAYS

7 pm, Choir rehearsal

### THURSDAYS

8:30AM Nature Walk in the Park  
(info: 813-988-6453)

### Calendar of February Events

Below is a listing of recurring and special events not highlighted elsewhere in Domelight. For a complete listing of events, visit the calendar at [www.uutampa.org](http://www.uutampa.org) Where you can click on events to pull up additional information for each listing.

**Monday, Feb. 2:** 7 p.m. Social Action Committee

**Tuesday, Feb. 3:** Lifespan Meditation, 5:30 p.m.,  
7 p.m., Worship Committee, Youth RE Committee

**Wednesday, Feb. 4:** 7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Worship Committee

**Thursday, Feb. 6:** 8:30am Walk in the Park

**Saturday, Feb. 7** CUUPs Full Moon Circle

**Monday, Feb. 9:** 7 p.m., CUUPS: Wicca 101

**Tuesday, Feb. 10:**

5:30pm, Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation

Youth RE: Our whole Lives

7-8:30 pm, Small Group Ministry: Meaningful  
Sharing Discussion Group

**Wednesday, Feb. 11:** 7pm Choir Rehearsal

7pmSHAAG

7pmTibetan Buddhist Meditation

**Thursday, Feb. 12 :** 8:30 am, Walk in the Park  
7 pm Adult RE: Building Your Own Theology II

**Saturday, Feb. 14:** 9 a.m. Building and Grounds  
8 pm,. Valentine's Dance

**Monday Feb. 16:** 7 pm Wicca 101, Finance Committee

**Tuesday, Feb. 17:** 5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation  
6 pm, Youth RE: OWL

**Wednesday, Feb. 18:** 7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pmTibetan Buddhist Meditation

**Thursday, Feb. 19:** 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park  
6 pm UUCT Board Meeting

**Monday, Feb. 23:** 6:45 p.m. Small Group  
Ministry:Genealogy

**Tuesday, Feb. 24:** 5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen  
Meditation  
6 pm Your RE: OWL  
7 pm. Small Group Ministry: Women's Spirituality

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** 7 pm Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, Feb. 26:** 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park  
7 pm Adult RE: Building Your Own Theology II

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
43 Vermont Court  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-281-3253

For more information, visit  
[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
or write to  
[info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)

**Saturday, Feb. 28:** 2 p.m. Youth RE: OWL sleepover

## A Month of Sundays at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

**Sunday, February 1.** *Blessed are the Poor.* What is our social outreach to the homeless? Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on UUCT's justice work and our networking with other churches and agencies.

**Sunday, February 8.** *Love.* On this Sunday before Valentine's Day, Rev. Zimmerman will share stories of the healing effects of love and caring.

**Sunday, February 15.** *Friendship. Bring-A-Friend Sunday.* Rev. Zimmerman and Katie Culbert, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth, will share the leadership of this intergenerational service.

**Sunday, February 22.** *Celebration of Darwin's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday.* (Actually on February 12<sup>th</sup>.) Did you know that Charles Darwin attended a Unitarian church and school during his earliest years in Shrewsbury, England? Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on the very human story of Darwin's life.

**Sunday, March 1.** *Animal Wisdom.* What do pets do for people? Immediately following the service and coffee time, Rev. Zimmerman will officiate at a Pet Blessing in the Gazebo, weather permitting.

**(Pets will be encouraged to wait outside during the 11 am church service.)**

*Want to get this by US mail? Need to contact the church? All the info is on page 3!*

*Domelight* is a publication of:  
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[info@uutampa.org](mailto:info@uutampa.org)