



Domelight



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

January 2008
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

The Prez Says Diana Stevens

Happy New Year!!! This is often the time for reflection about the past year. But, I am thinking about the coming year, as there will be so many exciting events and challenges for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa.

January – We will continue the work of making the church more hospitable to our members and visitors. Members of the church have been to meetings with the West Cluster churches and the Florida District to discuss ‘Best Practices’ and we have been implementing these ideas where they are needed. The Marketing Campaign for the UUA will start at the National level, as the partnership with Time Magazine gets under way. We will have the gazebo to assist with more space for meetings and Religious Education.

February – Reverend Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA, will kick off the Tampa Bay Area Marketing Campaign at the St. Petersburg Church on Saturday, Feb. 9th. He will be holding a press conference and a big event to celebrate. Then on Sunday, Feb 10th, Rev. Sinkford will join our congregation at UUCT for worship and will do the sermon. This is an honor for our church and we are excited to have him with us again.

March – We will be in the midst of the Marketing Campaign and won’t that be fun! I love the thought of a challenge to find a place for all the members, friends and new visitors that will be coming to our church. The Long Range Planning Committee will be giving us a vision of our plans for the future. We know we need more space and a plan will help us get there.

During all this change, we will remain the warm, loving bunch of people that we have always been. We welcome people to worship with us and share the love of this community. We are excited to share our religion with people who seek a liberal religion. We have found the right minister in Rev. Sara Zimmerman to assist us with this wonderful growth while celebrating each other’s diversity and ability to worship together. Join us in the spiritual growth of our community.

In community, Diana Stevens, President of the Board of Trustees



Reflections Katie Templin Culbert

Every one of us is a religious educator. Every time we come to church, we model for each other how to be religious and how to be a Unitarian Universalist. Let us review our Seven Principles and the ideas we strive for. Let us recognize when we have been religious educators to each other. Think over the past year, do you find something that describes you? Will 2008 bring more “yes” responses? (*Adapted by Joanne Giannino, DRE, First Parish, Bridgewater, MA*)

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote:

1. **The worth and dignity of every person.**
Did you greet a new person in church this year whether they be a child, youth or adult?
Did you learn someone’s name?
2. **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.**
Did you show patience with yourself or another person?
Did you go out of your way to help someone?
3. **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**
Did you spend time at church other than on Sunday morning for a social event, community outreach, or a meeting?
Did you help out in the RE program, or with the youth group?
Did you spend time listening to another person’s concerns, and offer kind words?
4. **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.**
Did you attend a Sunday service, or a religious education class?
Did you read a challenging book?
Did you share your spiritual journey with another person?
5. **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large.**
Did you listen to people around you who hold different views and respect the wide variety of ideas and gifts that we are privileged to receive?
Did you help decide something important in your group or committee?
6. **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.**
Did you help two or more people come to an agreement about a matter they initially could not agree about?
Did you decide to come to a class, discussion, or service knowing that your views might be different than those of the others present?
Did you practice loving all people even though we have different ways of thinking, acting, and feeling?
7. **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**
Did you practice good stewardship with the earth, plants, animals, and others?
Did you participate in our church recycling program?
Did you help support the church financially?
Did you invite a friend to church?

\$\$\$ Don’t Forget! \$\$\$ A collection box is located in the small dome for children, youth, and teachers who would like to donate money to the church offering. The collection is added to the main offering basket during worship.
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Reflections (continued from page 1)

Guest at Your Table UU Principles call upon us to raise our voices together to defend justice and basic human rights. Your voice is joining with thousands this month through our church's donations to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's fundraiser, *Guest at Your Table*. In November, you took a *Guest at Your Table* box home to keep on your table during the holiday season. At each meal you contributed money to the box, imagining that you were hosting a guest at your table. **Your contribution will be collected during the January 20th worship service. Count the money you have collected and write a check to UUSC in that amount.** UUSC Membership begins at \$40 (or \$20 for seniors, and just \$10 for students and youth.) Gifts of \$100.00 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar through a matching grant program. Don't forget to fill out the information form located on the bottom of the box and turn that in with your check.



UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund

Hopefully each of you enjoyed a fine holiday season and are looking forward to a wonderful 2008. It seems the older I become the faster time flies. This month I write of good news. As you know our UUA began a new health plan in 2007, which belongs to the UUA itself. The UUA Employee Benefits Trust owns and operates the plan on a non-profit basis to benefit the participants. When our UUA first announced the intention to create a UUA Health Plan, the importance of owning and operating our own plan for the benefit of our congregations, affiliated organizations, and self-employed community ministers was emphasized. One of the goals of the plan was to create enough financial stability to be able to offer a better rate predictability than the broader market. This year solid progress has been made toward creating a rate stabilization fund. With that fund in place the plans will only experience a 4% increase over the 2007 rates. This was achieved as the plan was improved for 2008 to meet expectations in some important benefit and eligibility areas.

For 2008 the plan will be bigger and better. Based on the feedback received from plan members, three significant and valuable improvements will be in place for 2008. An annual comprehensive routine eye exam with no deductible has been added. Adult immunizations will be covered without a deductible. And outpatient mental health visits will increase from 20 to 40 per calendar year.

Your UUA Trustees also approved improvements to all three PPO plans and expanded eligibility to reach more staff in our congregations. The threshold has been lowered for participation

to 750 hours worked per year from the current 1,000 hour requirement. It is hoped the eligibility reaches many who still do not have coverage. Responding to input from seminarians the eligibility of all interns in candidate status and working at least 750 hours per year for a UU congregation, paid or unpaid, or as a community minister will be specifically recognized.

Your Trustees and UUA encourage all congregations to contribute at least 80% of the cost for this plan for employees and at least 50% of the cost for additional family members. Contributing to the cost is a concrete way for a congregation to demonstrate commitment to UU principles of social justice and a life with dignity for all persons. Sharing the cost is also a good way to enhance plan stability for the future.

To find out more about our UUA Health Plan go to the website and Google the Health Plan. Much information is at your fingertips. If you have questions and/or concerns for the UUA Board of Trustees or me, email jblund@uua.org or call me at 813-931-9727. I always enjoy hearing from individuals and congregations. Happy New Year!



Would you like to get Domelight by Mail?

A 1-year subscription by mail is available! Stop by the office with a \$15.00 donation – be sure to mark it **Domelight** and include your name and address.

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Submissions should include a contact name and phone number. Editor: Chris Hendrickx

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
One Place: All Faiths
Creating a caring, justice-seeking community

Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary

On Sunday, December 16th, we held a bi-annual Congregational meeting. The agenda included: 2008 Budget, Long Range Planning, Marketing Campaign, and Gazebo. Yes, this is the meeting where we approve the budget for the following year, so it is usually a long one. We did very well because the meeting was slightly less than two hours. The meeting was very successful and informative!

The 2008 budget was approved with only one modification. There was some interesting and very important dialogue that occurred. Once again, we have some challenges. We will not have another Miracle Sunday but we have lots of other fundraising opportunities. Some ideas are a Spring or May Ball and a more exciting venue for our auctions. If you have talents or ideas to share, see Judy Lehman, Fundraising Chair, or a Board member.

Ara Rogers, Planning Chair, provided a brief update on the Planning Committee activities. Ara introduced the other members: Gene Pizzo, Joan Lund, Kaarla McKenzie, Mary Francis, and as a Board liaison Bill Blymiller. Ara offered that any questions or suggestions would be welcomed by any member of the Planning Committee.

First, a little history - the Planning Committee is a standing committee but it has been inactive until recently. From 1998 through 2002, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) went through multi-stage process and developed a 'land use plan'. This does not include building details but did lay out recommendations for new building locations.

This Planning Committee didn't originally start off as 'planning', but was initially a 'mission and vision' group. Once the Mission and Vision was defined, the UUCT board held a plebiscite and it was agreed by the congregation that 'RE is our Priority'. From this decision the Planning Committee was formed. The Planning Committee reviewed the CPC recommendations and agreed the comprehensive plan should be retained. The next steps include a Feasibility Study. The Planning Committee will solicit District and/or UUA assistance to examine our financial resources and how much money could be raised in a capital campaign, research financing options, develop a communication plan for reporting, and seek input from the congregation. The goal is to have more information regarding the Feasibility Study prior to the next congregational meeting in May.

The Planning Committee has agreed on the following:

- We need more flexible RE and meeting space

- We need to invest in improvements for the large dome
- We need to get SOMETHING done!
- We just don't know what we can do until we know how much money we have to work with.

The Tampa Bay Marketing Campaign is moving forward! Diana announced that Rev Sinkford, President of UUA, will be in town in February and will present the Sunday Service at UUCT on Feb 10, 2008. This is exciting news for our church!

Russ reported that the Tampa Bay area had a goal to raise \$200,000 and we have met that goal at this time. But the more money will mean that the Tampa Bay Marketing Campaign can do more types of advertising and promotion. An anonymous donor has generously offered a special matching challenge great of \$75,000. So contributions of up to \$499 will be matched dollar for dollar, and all gifts of \$500 will be matched two dollars for one. For more information, see Russ Patterson.

Special Congratulations! Diana Stevens announced that Jamie Hendrickx our current Interim Office Administrator is now permanent. Welcome home, Jamie!

Also, we have volunteers to assist in the office:

Ed and Pat – 1st and 2nd Wednesdays

Kathy Dorman – 3rd Wednesday

Judy Mintz – the last Wednesday until Feb – we will need another volunteer replacement in February.

Task Force for Additional Space, Bill Blymiller, Chair has a 12'x16' foot gazebo to be placed beside the large dome. It is not in the way of any new buildings based on comprehensive plan. The gazebo will be additional space for the teens and also other meetings. We think this will also be an attractive addition for wedding rentals!

The gazebo will use 'directed funds' and not impact the budget. Just to assure the Board has the authority to spend directed funds, a motion was successfully passed as follows: "The Congregation agrees that 'directed funds' or gifts to the church should be managed by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the wishes of the donors, and that the limitation of Article 6 Sec 6h does not apply in these cases."

This will give the BOT the ability to make decisions more quickly in the future. With so much to do in 2008, this will be helpful!



Interweave

Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past. We are an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We value and affirm the lives and experience of Queer people of faith of all ages, races, ethnicities, income levels, and abilities. By providing and supporting leadership, and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all Queer individuals, communities, groups, and their allies.

The local UUCT Chapter of Interweave will announce their next meeting during Sunday services. Please see the Order of Service for details or questions can be directed to Magda Santos.



Migrant Workers Program

Ollis Hughes, Chair

The Charity Committee would like to remind you that there is a basket for food offerings at the church entrance. The basket is for nonperishable food and personal items, no clothing. Please try to remember to bring something to share with those less fortunate.



Green Challenge

Brittany Bennett



Start the New Year off right! Try to make these water conservation tips from <http://www.monoloake.org> part of your resolutions for 2008:

“1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. So set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. **Saves 750-1,500 gallons** per month. Better yet, especially in times of drought, water with a hose. And best of all, convert your lawn to native plants.

2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. **Saves 20 gallons** per day for every leak stopped.

3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. **Saves 150 gallons** each time. For a two-car family that's **up to 1,200 gallons** a month.

4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. **Saves 500 to 800 gallons** per month.

5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. **Saves 300 to 800 gallons** per month.

6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can **save up to 700 gallons** per month.

7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. **Saves 150 gallons** or more each time. At once a week, that's **more than 600 gallons** a month.

8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month.

9. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** per month.

10. Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs--and only there. **Saves 500 gallons** per month.”



UUCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Save the Date

Suzie Siegel



Mark your calendars for 4 p.m. March 2, 2008, when the Rev. Sara Zimmerman will be installed as our minister. Although we called her in June, and she started serving our congregation in September, her installation will be akin to a formal commitment ceremony.

"An installation service is the recognition that a minister is settled in a particular society," according to the UUA, and is normally held months after the minister arrives. The installation "highlights and reaffirms the bond between a minister and a society."

We will invite UU ministers and members of their congregations from all over Florida. These invitations emphasize the connection of the Rev. Sara and the UUCT to others. The Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, will deliver a sermon, followed by a dinner. Let us join together to celebrate the beginning of the Rev. Sara's ministry at the UUCT.

Nursery Notes

Tempie Taudte

Each Sunday Kim Thorne staffs our nursery, which sometimes has as many as eight babies and toddlers. That's a lot! The Religious Education Committee is committed to recruit a volunteer to assist Kim each week. Could you be one of those volunteers?

This is a wonderful opportunity! Are your children past the toddler stage? Do your grandchildren live far away? Do you miss them? This may be a perfect volunteer "job" for you. The rewards are great. You get to rock babies, play with toys, help assemble puzzles, read stories and watch our little ones grow up. Each volunteer receives a free CD of the service, which allows him or her to hear the sermon and stay in touch with the happenings in our beloved UU community.

There is a volunteer sign-up sheet near the nursery door. You can volunteer one Sunday a month, or any Sunday that fits into your schedule. Please sign up soon!



All Church Membership Meeting

Judy Lehman

Everyone in our church family is part of the "membership team," and all of you are invited to an All Church Membership Team Meeting at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, January 20.

We need church members' help in welcoming and mentoring new folks. But we also hope some people who have been attending for a short time will come to this meeting to help us figure out how to do better outreach.

One area of discussion will be greeting newcomers. Two people arrive early on Sunday morning to greet visitors. But sometimes it's hard to know if the person BEING GREETED is a member returning after a long absence or someone who has visited a few times already. We might have greeters say, "Hi, my name is _____. Have I met you before?"

Newcomers are asked to fill out a form on a clipboard. If you spot someone doing this, please consider greeting them later. You may find a new friend!

Flowery Words

Harriet Blymiller

Kathi and John Dorman, thank you very much! Thank you for the lovely bouquet of flowers that you donated to a Sunday service in honor of Kathi's mother and then sent home with Bill so that I could enjoy them after my recent surgery. All the way around, it was a gesture of grace—the congregation enjoyed the flowers during the service, you honored Kathi's mother's memory, and I enjoyed a beautiful bouquet for longer than a week!

And thank you, Dan Miller, for the flowers that honored your wedding anniversary, in Susan's memory. They were gorgeous!

Fresh flower arrangements certainly add to the beauty of our Sunday services. And my fellow congregants, you can also provide flowers for the service, in someone's honor if you like, with a notice in the Order of Service, and then take them home or present them to someone to enjoy for the next week or more.

Barbara Nelson, Worship Service committee member and a florist for 30 years (!) has volunteered to purchase flowers at 'way less than retail prices' and use her talent and stash of supplies to arrange them at no additional cost. In fact, nobody would tell me the exact cost involved in "my" bouquet, but it was considerably LESS than 50% of what a floral shop would charge.

In the foyer, there is a sign-up sheet for donating flowers. Think about the possibilities... Sunday's bouquet, chosen and arranged to your preferences, enhances the service in honor of your best girl's birthday, for instance, and then goes home with her. Whatta' guy! Or a springtime bouquet goes to Aunt Thelma in "the home" and she keeps you in the will! Win-win-win situation.



SHAAG /SHAFT

Bill Blymiller

The SHAAG (Secularist, Humanist, Atheist, Agnostic [and Free Thinker] Group) now meets on the **second and fourth Wednesdays** of each month to discuss topics of interest from a primarily non-theistic point of view. I say primarily, because the discussions range freely and many different flavors of "Free Thinking" display themselves. Go the Church website and follow the SHAAG link to get more information and links to download the discussion material. Contact Bill Blymiller for questions at bill@blymiller.com or 813-988-6551. The discussions are always open and new people come and go all the time. We would love to have you visit to see if it is something you would be interested in.

Reverberations under the Dome – Sound(ing) off Harriet Blymiller

Mea culpa! I'm guilty too.

A couple of years ago, I was annoyed by a certain sound-man's chair sque-ee-eee-king as he squiggled around pushing buttons and adjusting levers during the Sunday service. It certainly distracted from the effect that Marjorie and the choir were working hard to create. After gritting my teeth for a couple of weeks, I was able to address this particular, perhaps only personal, annoyance by "donating" a chair "liberated" from a trip to the landfill.

My own guilt emanates from my service as a greeter on Sunday. In my enthusiasm for late-comers' appearance, I often talked and laughed loudly enough to be heard in the sanctuary after the service had started. In addition Marjorie occasionally, and justifiably, became annoyed with me when I failed to close the inner doors at 11:00 sharp because every word from entrance foyer and office could be heard in the sanctuary as folks continued to arrive and greet one another.

I bet by now you anticipate my point: Our moments of silence during a 60-minute Sunday service are necessarily short, and kitchen clatter or printer chatter may lessen their all-too-brief profundity.

That said, I emphasize that significant behind-the-scenes activities go on during the Sunday services. In fact, indispensable service to the congregation is then performed by dedicated members of our congregation, who often selflessly miss the service itself. Thank you, thank you for everything you do, every one of you, whether it's every week or once in a blue moon.

Even so, whether once in a blue moon or every week, we must all, and I include myself here, remember that our dome's marvelous acoustics have, literally, a down side. Loud sounds from the office, foyer, kitchen, and balcony rise to the dome and then bounce down into the sanctuary—with the possibility of distracting from the service.

Okay, okay, infants and the nursery occupants excepted. Little human lives must be represented in our congregation, and for me at least, infant commentary on a sermon often brings the greatest message of hope and joy.

As we perform self-examination during Rev. Sara's new tenure and the media campaign, the atmosphere we create during the Sunday services is of paramount importance. Enough said.

Shhhhhhhh, the service is starting.

Your help is needed!

Just a reminder, please help to clean the church. This is not only needed on Building & Grounds day, but also whenever you're there. Make sure all food is picked up and put away. Clean up all of your dishes. Take the garbage out to the dumpster. Just these few simple tips can help make sure that we have a sanctuary that's ready to use when anyone wants to use it, and helps keep the grounds looking beautiful!



Walk in the Park Patricia McCracken

A group of UUs meet at Lettuce Lake Park Thursday mornings at 8:30AM for a brisk walk on the paved path and good conversation. To find the parking area and meeting place, take the Lettuce Lake Parkway to the end. Turn left and then immediately turn right into the parking lot. We will gather there and begin the walk at 8:30AM. You are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Patricia McCracken at 813-988-6453.



Circles In The Woods CUUPS Chris Hendrickx

Circles in the Woods CUUPS (Convent 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:

Jan 19th: Members of Sacred Oaks Circle will be led by GreyWolf in this ritual for protection of hearth and home.

Upcoming Classes:

Note: 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.

Wicca 101 classes will be held on the first and third Mondays of January, February and March. See <http://www.uutampa.org> for specific topics.

Giving to the UU Church of Tampa

There are several ways to give to UUCT. You can fill out a form with our pledge secretary, Joyce Formica to enroll in automatic deductions from your bank. For those of you who would like more control, you can make a one-time or recurring donation online at <http://www.uutampa.org>. You can drop money in the Sunday collection basket (mark it pledge if you want it to count toward your pledge – there are envelopes in the basket if you are using cash toward your pledge). Finally, you can drop donations off at the church office anytime someone is there. If you wish to make a gift of stocks or bonds, please see our treasurer for instructions.



H.O.P.E. Happenings

Carol Partington

On December 3, 2003, HOPE (the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality, of which our church is a member) held a Research and Issue Development Session. During the meeting, Rev. Sharon Streeter described the research and development process. The first step is to define the problem: What is it? Who is affected? Where and why is it happening? The next step is to determine who the decision-makers are. Which institutions have the responsibility for the problem and possible solutions? What is their budget and where is their source of income? What people have the authority to give us what we want? Who will be allies? Who will be the opposition? What is their source of power? We don't need to be the experts. We do need to conduct enough research to define what we want, when we want it, and have the decision-makers to engage.

We will conduct research meetings to obtain information about community problems, to build relationships with community leaders, and to better understand relationships between community leaders. A research meeting is a 40-60 minute meeting between a HOPE Research Team and a community leader to surface the self-interest of the community leader and to get specific information, stats, history, gaps, laws, etc. that will help define an issue for action.

HOPE has chosen to address two issues in 2008: Homelessness / Affordable Housing and Health Care. Tempie Taudte has joined the Health Care Research Team. In January that team will meet with the CEO of Tampa Family Health Centers to begin our research into health care issues. She will keep you posted on their progress.

If you are concerned about Homelessness / Affordable Housing or Health Care, please contact me or Tempie. We'd love to have you join us as we work for justice in our community.

Adult Religious Education

Ollis Hughes

The Adult RE Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday every other month. The next meeting is on February 20th. There are several events coming up in January, so mark your calendars!

Don't forget about the **Wicca 101 classes** on **January 7th** and **January 21st**. Several UUCT members attended last year and all gave favorable reviews. See the CUUPS article on page 6 for more details.

There is no **book discussion** for January. Contact me if you'd like to host one!

Popcorn and Opinions will be at the home of Joyce Formica showing "Antonia Sine". Suzie Siegel will facilitate the discussion of this Dutch movie, with English subtitles, which won an Academy Award as the Best Foreign Language Film in 1995. Although it contains brief violence, the film celebrates life, as lived by four generations in a farming community. Bring snacks if you'd like!

Our very own Rev. Sara Zimmerman is continuing a **Zen Loving Kindness Meditation** every Tuesday evening from 5:30 PM until 6:30 PM in the large dome. Note: There will be no meditation January 1st.

The **Green Group** welcomes your input on issues concerning our environment. See their article on page 4 for full details.

We're still looking for hosts for the Popcorn and Opinions series as well as facilitators for book discussions. Contact Ollis Hughes if interested.



CARE Committee

Joyce Formica

The Care Committee strives to assist members and their families, when they are ill, isolated, bereaved, lending a helping hand. If you become ill or hospitalized, or know of someone that could use our services, please let Rev Sara (988-8188) or a member of the Care Committee know. If you would be willing to serve on the committee contact Joyce Formica (988-1907) or email her at keypouse2@aol.com.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
One Place: All Faiths
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Conversation With The Board

Diana Stevens, Board of Trustees President

Available members of the Board of Trustees will be present for **conversation** after church on the last Sunday of the month from 12:15 to 12:45 PM. The purpose of these conversations will be to open communication and share ideas. Come with questions and ideas, but always with an open mind.



UUSC Award

Diana Stevens

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has given the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa the 2007 award for our congregation's UUSC support. UUSC honors the congregations sustaining their work through exceptional levels of giving and membership. The Creating Justice Banner Society 2007 streamer will be attached to our UUSC banner. Our congregation will be celebrated as an honored congregation in UUWorld magazine and UUSC's annual report and online at www.uusc.org.



Concerts in the Dome

Gloria Holloway

2008 = 12 years of concerts and counting!

Jan 6, Sunday: Here's wishing you a happy and peaceful new year. With that thought in mind, please plan to attend "Listening for Peace, A Concert" presented by Lauren Pelon on Sunday Jan 6 at 4pm. \$10 in advance. \$12 at the door. The concert will feature music and instruments from around the world, along with commentary on world peace (in the sense of ending wars), as well as the necessity of making peace with nature, the land, and ourselves. Lauren tours internationally. She sings beautifully, and she has mastered an amazing array of exotic instruments. See her web site at <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~laurenpelon> for more information about her music.

Jan 12 Saturday: Internationally renowned Cellist Matt Haimovitz will be featured at 8pm. \$12 admission. Matt is touring in support of his latest recording "After Reading Shakespeare." Visit <http://www.oxingale.com> for more details about his music.

For advance ticket sales and information about future concerts, see <http://uutampa.org/Concerts.htm>. There are lots of good concerts coming up. Stay tuned.

Tampa Bay UU Regional Marketing Campaign

Russell Patterson

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 5th. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. UU Church of St. Petersburg. UU Hospitality, Inclusion and Multi-culturalism presented by Paula Cole Jones the first weekend in January. This is a great chance to learn more about being a culturally inclusive, rather than a culturally imperialistic congregation. Registration details will come later this month.

The auction on December 9th was a great success, raising over \$4035, with half of the proceeds going to the Marketing Campaign, and the other half going to our church budget. All the Churches in the Tampa Bay area are raising money for the Marketing Campaign. The goal is \$300,000. Over \$210.00 has been raised. This money will only be spent on the actual advertising. All the overhead is being paid by the UUA – that is all the UU Churches in the USA are paying for the UUA staff time and travel to help implement the Tampa Bay program.

An anonymous donor has promised to give up to \$75,000 to match dollar for dollar donations of less than \$500 to the Marketing Campaign. If a donation is \$500 or more, the money will be matched TWO to ONE! That is a \$500 donation becomes \$1500! To donate, simply make any contribution to UUCT including a note that the funds are for the marketing campaign.



Pledge updates

Joyce Formica

If you had made a financial pledge to UUCT for 2007 you will be receiving a contribution statement by the third week in January. If you find an error please bring your statement with you to church on Sunday morning January 20th. I will be in the office at 9:30am to review statements and make corrections. Please note that sometimes check numbers aren't readable when posting a donation, so the number 222222 is recorded in place of the actual check number on the statement.



Help Keep the Updaters Updated!

Joyce Formica and Jamie Hendrickx

Are You Moving? Are you planning to move or have already moved? Has your phone number or email address changed? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, please notify the church office by email: info@uutampa.org or phone: 813-988-8188.

Campfire USA

We are a Camp Fire Group in the USF Area. Due to the holidays, we will be meeting January 8th and January 22nd from 10:30 - 12:00 at our new sponsor the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. The members will make friends, complete service projects and have fun. This year each member will have the opportunity to go camping with Sunshine Council, Sell Candy, earn each of the emblems of the five trails: Trail to Community, Trail to the Environment, Trail to Family and Community, Trail to the Future, Trail to Knowing Me. In addition there will be several service projects and a lot of fun. The members who are 11 and older also have the option to participate in Advanced Camping Experts (ACES). The ACES program teaches leadership, decision-making, teamwork, self-reliance skills using outdoor education as a medium.

We already have two ten year olds and a twelve year old committed to the group and two 14 year olds that are interested. I was in Camp Fire when I was a child and my son has been in Camp Fire for three years already. If you are interested please contact me ASAP. Below is some information about Camp Fire.

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving 735,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire USA's outcome based programs include youth leadership, self-reliance, after school groups, camping and environmental education and child care.

Serving youth from birth to 21, Camp Fire USA helps boys and girls learn and play side by side in comfortable, informal settings. Our coed programs allow parents to consolidate schedules for both their daughters and sons.

As the first nonsectarian, interracial organization for girls in the United States, Camp Fire USA takes pride in its long-standing commitment to providing fun programs and services to all children and families in America.

We are inclusive, open to every person in the communities we serve, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity. Camp Fire USA's programs are designed and implemented to reduce sex-role, racial and cultural stereotypes and to foster positive intercultural relationships.

Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders.

For more information, call me
Jodi Ann Baudean at (813) 244-4111 or e-mail
CampFireKidsOfTampa@gmail.com

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

Or the contact the Sunshine Council
<http://www.campfireusa-sunshine.org>



Calendar of weekly events at UUCT

SUNDAY

- 9:45AM Green Group
- 10AM Current Affairs (Small Dome)
- 11AM Sunday Service
- 11AM (Grades 1-12) Youth R.E. (Small Dome)
- 11AM Child Care for babies in the Nursery

THURSDAY

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

Calendar of January Events

- Jan 2** – Choir 7:00 PM
- Jan 3** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
- Jan 6** – All church undecorating party 12:15 PM
Concert: Lauren Pelon 4:00 PM
- Jan 7** – Adult RE: CUUPS Wicca 101 7:00 PM
- Jan 8** – Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
Worship Committee 7:00 PM
- Jan 8** – Campfire USA 10:30 AM
- Jan 9** – SHAAG 7:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
- Jan 10** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
- Jan 12** – **Buildings and Grounds 9:00 AM**
Concert: Matt Haimovitz 8:00 PM
- Jan 13** – **Domelight Deadline**
- Jan 14** – Finance Committee 7:00PM
- Jan 15** – Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
- Jan 16** – Choir 7:00 PM
- Jan 17** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- Jan 19** – CUUPS Full Moon Celebration 7:30 PM
- Jan 20** – All Church Membership Team Meeting 12:30 PM
- Jan 21** – Adult RE: Wicca 101 7:00 PM
- Jan 22** – Campfire USA 10:30 AM
Adult RE: Zen Loving Kindness Meditation 5:30 PM
- Jan 23** – SHAAG 7:00 PM
Choir 7:00 PM
- Jan 24** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM
- Jan 25** – Concert: The Nields 8:00 PM
- Jan 27** – Conversation with the Board 12:15 PM
- Jan 29** – **Election Day**
- Jan 30** – Choir 7:00 PM
- Jan 31** – Tibetan Buddhist Meditation 7:00 PM

A Month of Sundays at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Please Note: All Sunday Services start at 11:00 AM and are led by Rev. Sara Zimmerman unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, January 6, "Making Religious Community" -- Worship led by Ralph Lehman

Ralph Lehman will present this service about what some experiences and UU Principles suggest to help us accomplish the goal of Making Religious Community

Sunday, January 13th: "JOY!" – Worship led by Katie Culbert

Katie Culbert presents a service on JOY!

Sunday, January 20th: "Reflections on Domestic Violence"

Rev Zimmerman will explore the theological and historical legacies of domestic violence and relate current local efforts to find the most effective way to end it (This sermon is the result of a winning bid at the 2007 Miracle Sunday auction.)

Children and Youth will be in the sanctuary for the beginning of service and the Story for All Ages. The Story will honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please bring your UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes for collection!

Sunday, January 27th : "Emerson and 19th Century UU History"

Rev. Zimmerman will offer another original "readers' theater" play, this time featuring the historical figures John Murray, Hosea Ballou, Phebe Hanaford, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, Eleanor Gordon and others. In "readers theater," parts are read in performance, not memorized. If you would like to volunteer for a part, send an email before January 15th to revsaraz@aol.com.

Want to get this by US mail? Need to contact the church? All the info is on page 2!

Domelight is a publication of:

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Please Note: The deadline for the January issue of Domelight is January 13th at the end of the church service.