



Domelight



Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Minister

April 2007
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

In The Interim

I am gradually replacing all my favorite old cassettes with nice, digitally remastered CDs. I recently purchased Bob Marley's *Legend* album (oops!—old habits die hard), and found that I preferred my old cassette, with which I was more intricately acquainted than I knew.

Some of the numbers were actually different—live rather than studio produced. But even with the same old versions, I found myself missing the familiar fuzziness and scratchiness. It was as if the old version had worked its way into my DNA, or at least my nervous system.

I was reminded of an exercise neurologists use to illustrate the power of habit. I invite you to try this for yourselves, right now, before reading further. First lace your fingers together. Then notice which thumb is on top, and lace them the other way. Feels weird, doesn't it? You've laced your fingers thousands of times, without giving any thought to how you do it.

It occurs to me that congregations resist change the same way we resist lacing our fingers the other way. How many times have interim ministers heard the complaint, "But we've always done it this way!"

Changing old habits is hard in part because we've always done it this way. And yet nothing could be more natural than change. Everything in nature is in a constant state of change.

I am reminded of the neo-pagan Starhawk's chant that honors Kore, another name for Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, who became the queen of the underworld. It goes in part like this:

She changes everything she touches
And everything she touches changes.

Her name cannot be spoken. Her face was not forgotten;
Her power is to open. Her promise can never be broken.

All seeds she deeply buries. She weaves the thread of seasons
Her secret, darkness carries. She loves beyond all reason.

All sleeping seeds she wakens, the rainbow is Her token;
Now winter's power is taken, In love all chains are broken.

Everything lost is found again, in a new form, in a new way;
Everything hurt is healed again, in a new time, in a new day.

We are changers. Everything we touch can change.
We are changers. Everything we touch can change.

Change is, touch is, touch is, change is.

We resist change, yet change is the only constant in life. The next time you find yourself thinking, "Why do I/we have to change?," try to remember that change brings blessings just as often as it brings pain.

Blessed be!

Rev. Liz

The Prez Says

Diana Stevens

This was a month of me doing things at the church I haven't done in awhile or ever.

My first wonderful experience was spending two Sundays with the youth in RE. I haven't done that in too many years. What lovely children we have! Of course I've seen them around but didn't know all their names. Well, they are really terrific and I enjoyed my turn to meet them. Suzie Siegel and I spoke with them about sexism and gender roles. We had an interesting conversation and the UU principles showed in the way they thought and processed new information.

My second experience was participating in the *Evensong* group. I haven't done a class at the church in awhile. It turned out to be all women and we met each Tuesday to talk about a specific subject. This was just for February and March but could become a covenant group. The ritual of the meetings and the closeness of the participants were very rewarding. It was an opportunity to examine my beliefs on such topics as: Religious and Spiritual Experiences; The Divine; The Human; The Messiah, the Christ, the Buddha, the Divine Made Manifest; The Community; Death and Dying; What is my Ministry?

My third experience was going with 6 other choir members and Nadya to a Music Conference Workshop in Gainesville. It was truly amazing. There were singers from 6 congregations to make a choir of 70 people. The Sunday service was, *Are we a peaceful church?* and we did 4 songs about peace – not war. We worked hard for 5 ½ hours on Saturday to prepare the songs. We had 4 different choir directors, Nadya was one of them. We were treated to a wonderful pot luck that evening and then reported for duty Sunday to practice again and then sing in the service. As you can imagine, a 70 singer choir was extraordinary. The minister used the music to accentuate her words and the combination was truly powerful. We will have a CD of the service and will be glad to share it with those interested. Maybe, we could make it into a fundraising event for the choir. If we have this opportunity again, come join us if you like to sing.

My advice to you all is to find something you haven't done at the church and give it a try. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa is alive with interesting things to do and people to meet, give it a try.

Congregational Meeting: May 6th
after church. A light lunch will
be served.
Agenda: Elect Board of
Trustees, Budget Report, By-
Law changes



UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund

Although it is only April, it is time to think about attending this year's General Assembly (GA) in Portland, Oregon, June 20th to 24th. This year attendance is especially important because for some time now Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, and the Board of Trustees (BOT) have been trying to determine a process for working on Ends for the Association. The chosen process has been identified as Open Space Technology (OST), a large group intervention process in which a topic focus is provided, and a facilitator encourages people to lead small group discussions that relate to the topic. Many small groups meet at the same time, come back together to hear reports from one another, and receive reports from other areas that relate to the topic. OST has been used in community and organizational settings for strategic planning purposes when input from many sources is important and initial priorities are being sought. OST provides a means of bringing multiple and disparate voices together to determine what people believe is important.

At GA, delegates and attendees (you don't have to be a delegate) will have the opportunity to begin the work of creating a mission and outcomes for the future direction of our UUA. Open ended questions will be used as the basic focus. GA attendees will have the opportunity to participate in several OST workshops and on Sunday delegates will vote on prioritized statements from these workshops during the last plenary session. The BOT will consider these statements in the development of a mission and ends statements, and will report on their progress in January and April, 2008 in preparation for GA 2008. The next steps at the 2008 GA might include a vote on a mission and global ends, or further OST workshops to refine the work done at this year's GA.

Because the BOT is exploring policy governance and working on ends statements regarding the three questions policy governance boards address, we feel it is important to understand and address whom we serve, at what cost, and for what reason, or toward what end. I would like to hear from GA delegates and attendees about what they think the mission of the Association should be. OST will offer GA delegates, as charged by the congregations they represent, to help define the direction of the Association and offer guidance about its mission to the BOT.

Of course because of limited space I am not going to write specifically what happens in an OST session. Be assured there will be trained facilitators and I am asking that all participants to “trust the process”. And no one will be required to attend OST workshops; as always there will be many interesting, wonderful, and challenging workshops at GA. If you are wishing more information you may want to visit www.openspaceworld.org.

I hope to talk with those of you who plan to attend GA during our District Annual Meeting at the end of this month. Of course you may contact me at jlund@uua.org or (813) 931-9727. I receive many UU-related emails and calls each month and am appreciative of the active and interested UUs in our District. Be well and enjoy our beautiful spring weather.



Missing your Domelight?

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

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.uupampa.org> free of charge. For a 1 year subscription by mail, please make a \$15 donation to the church office. Mark it **DOMELIGHT SUBSCRIPTION.**

Domelight deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. Deadline for the next issue is **May 13th**. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Domelight@chrisandjamie.net or left in the Domelight box in the church office.

Submissions should include a contact name and phone number.

Editor: Chris Hendrickx

Choir Notes

Although there are new faces in the UUCT choir...we would love to have more of you joining us on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings! We could also use more sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. We know you are out there because we can hear you singing away in the congregation on Sunday mornings during the hymns. Come on, we don't bite, so why don't you bite the bullet and come join us for rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7pm? There are no auditions, no fees, and we welcome all with open arms!



Board Bytes Tempie Taudte

Each month we receive and discuss reports from the Minister, Director of Religious Education, Treasurer, and Board / Committee Liaisons. There was no RE report in March because Katie Culbert, our DRE, is on maternity leave until the first of April.

The Board discussed ways to fill vacant committee chair positions. We identified nine committees that are critical to church functioning. Of the nine critical committees, four did not have chairs. Diana Stevens, our Board President, appointed Liz Bleau and Bud Clough to co-chair the Worship Committee. Lynn Parrish volunteered to take a leadership role with the Membership Team. Building and Grounds and Religious Education (Children and Youth) still need chairs. Are you the person who is willing and able to become a leader for either of these very important committees? If you are, please speak to Diana.

Ed Benedict began training our new volunteer bookkeeper in March. Jay Hall will document bookkeeping procedures to facilitate smooth transitions whenever we have a new volunteer bookkeeper or treasurer.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on May 6, after the Sunday service. Letters of notification will be mailed to all UUCT members.

For more information, please see the most recent copy of the minutes, which is posted on a bulletin board in the foyer, or ask any board member.

Tempie Taudte, Secretary



CARE

Joyce Formica

If you are ill or know of someone who is ill and could use a little help please inform the minister (988-8188) and a member of the CARE committee. We will be happy to extend a helping hand.



UU Can Make a Difference! Religious Education for Children and Youth

Katie Culbert,
Director of Religious Education
DRE@uutampa.org; 813-988-8188.

Religious Education Activities Calendar 2007

Friday, April 6 th – Saturday, April 7 th	Campout at Lake Louisa
Sunday, April 8 th	Easter RE lesson, Egg hunt, and party
Sunday, April 15 th	RE lesson: Environmental Justice
Sunday, April 22 nd	Earth Day Project
Sunday, April 29 th	RE lesson: Environmental Justice

Please note: Katie is away on Maternity leave from approximately late February/early March through mid-April. While she is away you may contact RE Committee members Judy Lehman 866-0591 jr.lehman@verizon.net, Molly Hays 948-8031 bomoka@aol.com and Kaarla McKenzie 983-1855 kaarla@sourceexecutive.com or the minister, Rev. Liz Brown, at 813-988-8188 minister@UUTampa.org.



Membership Matters: Who's Who on the Membership Team?

Judy Lehman

Team co-facilitators: Lynn Parrish & Judy Lehman

MEMBERSHIP TEAM 2007

- Team A: Outreach for guests and new members
- Team B: Welcoming and processing new members
- Team C: Mentoring new members
- Team D: Administrative support functions

Team A: Outreach

- Lynn Parrish Schedule one usher for Sunday service (offering & counting)
- *Kathy Oller Schedule two guest greeters for Sunday service
- Kathy Oller Make packets for visitors
- Joan Lund Develop a mentoring program
- Office manager Mail welcome letter from minister
- Office manager Forward guest sheet to P. McCracken for follow-up phone call
- Patricia McCracken Contact guests by phone during the week inviting them back
- Pat Benedict Name tags

Team B: Processing New Members

- M. Pelham Lead new UU classes with the minister
- TBA Provide refreshments for new UU classes
- Pat Benedict Plan ceremony for new members (this may be Minister/President)
- Judy Lehman Arrange evening reception for new members
- Liz Bleau Write new member profiles for *Domelight*
- Pat Benedict Maintain new Member packets (membership list, budget, etc.)
- Ralph Lehman Pledge new members

Team C: Mentoring New Members

- Ralph Lehman Arrange a personal visit when pledging new members. This person will ensure that contact is maintained between mentors and new members.

Team D: Administrative Support Services

- Joyce Formica Maintain and update membership roll for congregational meetings, Annual Pledge Drive, and UUA annual dues report.
- TBA Author a Membership Matters column in the Domelight every month.

*Weekly Visitor Greeters include but are not limited to: Judy Lehman, Joan Lund, Kathy Oller, Lynn Parrish, Barbara Rogers, Suzie Siegel, Tempie Taudte

Note: Many of these activities will be performed in conjunction with the Minister. Team concept and form developed by Fran Davin.

Please contact Lynn or Judy if you are willing to join our team.



Adult Religious Education

Denise Dorsey

This month, *Engaging our Theological Diversity* continues, and we are adding a final class, *Confronting the Koran*. Our April movie of the month is *An Inconvenient Truth*, and our April book of the month group will not be meeting. Remember, we're trying to tie in our UU principles or sources into our book and movie discussions, so save an Order of Service with the information printed on the back.

We continue to be in need of book and movie hosts and facilitators. If there are no more volunteers, the movie and book groups will both end for the season. If there is anyone interested in volunteering your time, home, or expertise for either group, contact ddorsey3@gmail.com.

Classes:

The fourth session of *Engaging Our Theological Diversity* will be held on Monday, April 9th at 7:00 pm. This discussion will focus on "Culture ... Who are we?" It includes a demographic analysis of UUs and a discussion of what that means. It includes data and discussion on class and race, gender roles, and the impact of the larger culture on UUs. Copies of the chapter under discussion or the whole report are available on the Church website. This series is open to everyone, and it is not necessary to have attended previous sessions to attend this one. Contact bill@blymiller.com for additional information.

The Final UUCT Adult Religious Education Class of Spring 2007 is *Confronting the Koran: An Approach to the Holy Book of Islam*. This class will meet at the UUCT from 7 pm to 9 pm on Tuesdays. The dates are April 3rd, 10th, and 24th and May 1st. No previous knowledge is required. Any knowledge of Judaism or Christianity will be helpful.

This course will introduce participants to the central text of Islam. The text will not be read from an orthodox Muslim standpoint, but every effort will be made to understand the Muslim perspective on this work.

The Koran is a notoriously inaccessible text, and certainly a short seminar is not adequate to explore it. We will read selected surahs from both the early Meccan and later Medinan periods and examine issues including the nature of the revelation, the status of the text, the character of Mohammad, the status of women and minorities, the role of jihad, etc. The hope is that we will cover enough of the text and its social and political context to enable participants to continue to explore on their own, and to provide an introduction to some of the most important passages of the scripture.

The class will begin on April 3rd with a screening of the classic movie on the life of Muhammad: *The Message*. Starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Pappas, the movie was years in the making with funding problems and religious controversies galore. Approval of the content was sought and obtained from leading Sunni and Shia authorities. Nonetheless, most Islamic nations banned the movie when it was first released.

Text: Penguin Classics *The Koran*, Translated with notes by N.J. Dawood, Revised Edition 2004. This is a relatively inexpensive and readily available edition. If you have a favorite edition of your own please feel free to use it instead. (No fatwas will be issued against you). Instructor. Ananyo "Tito" Basu, PhD, J.D.

Movie:

Popcorn & Opinions presents: *An Inconvenient Truth* on Friday, April 20th at 7:00 pm at the home of Robin Leigh. Arrive a little early with snack food or drinks to share, and be prepared for an informative evening, followed by spirited discussion.

Jeffrey M. Anderson writes, "If you see only one movie this year, make it *An Inconvenient Truth*. It may not be the year's best movie, or its most entertaining, but it's certainly the most terrifyingly crucial. Director Davis Guggenheim does a remarkable job of filming Al Gore's "climate crisis" slide show, somehow making it visually dramatic and compulsively gripping. Gore has moved way beyond the "wooden" presidential candidate who nearly won the 2000 election, and now appears as dynamic, commanding, intelligent and even funny. The film clearly and effectively explains the cause and horrifying effects of global warming, and even takes time out to refute the right wing naysayers, challenging and debunking their best "arguments" against global warming. If the movie has a flaw, it's the gloomy interludes in which Gore talks about his personal road toward this fight. But several humorous bits, such as an animated segment by Matt Groening and his *Simpsons* crew, counterbalance these moments. Melissa Etheridge contributes a song to the closing credits. According to this film, we have ten years in which to turn around the inevitable, and viewers moved to action can start by logging onto www.climatecrisis.net."



Finally, be sure to check out the additional offerings for adults found elsewhere in the Domelight, such as CUUPS, RUUGS, SHAAG, Current Affairs, Choir, A Walk in the Park, and Interweave.



Board of Trustees Nominations

Tom Hagner

The Board Nominating Committee this year was Liz Bleau, Martha Robinson, and Tom Hagner. There are three seats where the current Board member's term is expiring: Ed Benedict, Bill Blymiller, and Tom Hagner. Fortunately for UUCT, Ed and Bill have agreed to stand for re-election; however, Tom is reaching the end of his second elected three years term and must step down per the By-laws. Again, fortunately for UUCT, Mary Francis has accepted nomination to the Board. The election will occur May 6th at the congregational meeting in accordance with the By-laws. The Bios for the three candidates follow.

Ed Benedict: Ed grew up in north-central Texas where he attended Catholic grammar school, public high school, and college. Upon graduation from college in 1963, he entered the United States Air Force as a career officer, where he served for 21 years in the intelligence field. Following retirement from the USAF, he taught for 16 years in the public schools in Tampa, Florida as a social studies teacher. Ed's religious affiliations include converting to Catholicism at age 18. By 1966, he was slowly moving towards Unitarianism. He joined his first Unitarian Universalist church in 1969 in Arlington, Virginia. He was active in the Ramstein, Germany UU Fellowship between 1975 and 1980. He and his wife, Pat, joined the Tampa church in 1997. While a member of the Tampa church, Ed has served on the Membership committee, the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and as a Middle School Religious Education teacher for four years. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2001. Ed is our long standing (and much appreciated) Treasurer.

Bill Blymiller: Bill is a newcomer to Unitarian Universalism and advises that he will always remain so. Bill has been with the UUCT since late 2002. He has served the church in various capacities including sound-man, yard mower, committee member, and has been on the Board of Trustees for the past three years. On the Board, he has served as Secretary and is currently Vice President. He attends church with his wife Harriet. He is a co-founder and remains active in the Humanist discussion group (SHAAG/SHAAFT) and participates in as many church activities as he can. Bill advises that he "is a troublesome Board member who is often in error and seldom in doubt. My parole officer reports that my 'playing with others' skills have increased during this time at the Tampa church. I am currently Vice President and only a heartbeat away from really causing trouble." In fact, Bill is one of our most dedicated and hard-working members and a wonderful teacher besides. Bill has won a Florida UU District award for creative use of humor. Bill's hobbies are music, reading, and motorcycle riding.

Mary Francis: Mary first attended a Unitarian Universalist church in the 1970's. It was a pleasantly unique experience from the Christian services she had attended. Over the years, she attended other UU services but never joined a church. In 1996, she heard about Full Moon Celebrations being held at the UUCT. She already knew the fundamental principles of Unitarian Universalism and found it welcoming. She began to regularly attend Full Moon Celebrations, primarily due to Susan Miller's vibrant presence, and then began to attend occasional Sunday services. In 1998, she officially became a UUCT member. Some of her key contributions have been: Web Page (development and maintenance), CUUPS chapter founder and Facilitator, Pledge Drive, Appreciative Inquiry Group, Communications Chair, and Care Committee. Mary continues to be active with CUUPS as the education coordinator. She has extensive experience in writing, performing, and leading public rituals. Mary has superb professional credentials too extensive to list here. She advises: "I am a very organized person, adept at multi-tasking. I offer my project management and organizational skills as well as love for the church and its members. I look forward to continued involvement at UUCT through the committees I already serve, and I seek to further that involvement as a member of the Board of Trustees."



Perpetual Gift

Consider giving a gift to the church by purchasing a hymnal in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person. Our hymnbook *Singing The Living Tradition* is available for \$32.00 a copy which includes shipping and handling fees and a personalized bookplate. When we receive five requests, we will place an order. Mail your check for \$32.00 made payable to UUCT, attention Hymn Book. Or place the check in the Sunday collection plate with a note. You will be notified before the book is placed in the sanctuary.



In Memory Joyce Formica

Singing the Living Tradition and *Singing the Journey* hymnbooks have been donated to the church in the memory of the following:

Rev Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley by Laura Mendes

Susan Miller by Laura Mendes

Margaret Sullivan, mother of Judy Mintz by Carolyn Hines

Leila P. Smith, mother of Bill Blymiller by Harriett & Bill Blymiller

SHAAG /SHAAFT

The humanist/atheist contingent of the UUCT continues to have twice monthly discussions on the first and third Mondays of each month. The group, acronymed SHAAG or SHAAFT with the appropriate placement of the words atheist, free thinker, secularist, humanists, agnostic in it, is open to any one who wants to attend. The topics discussed are available via a link on the Church website at www.uutampa.org. Join us for some spirited discussion. If you have questions about the group please email Bill Blymiller at bill@blymiller.com.



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 Jonathan Roudabush.



A Drink from 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!

Upcoming Rituals:

April 28, 2007, 7:00 p.m. The Circles in the Woods Wicca 101 class will perform a Beltaine Ritual and show off everything they learned in class! They will be assisted and led by members of Sacred Oaks Circle.

Classes:

Circles in the Woods CUUPS holds its monthly business meeting on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is April 2nd and will be followed by a class on *The Eagle and The Owl*. *The Dance of Life or The Eagle and The Owl* is a meditation from the Tsalagi Nation of the Native American tradition. It has been gifted to the Others to use for balancing the *Male*, or *Eagle*, and the *Female*, or *Owl* energies within Nature and ourselves. It was taught to Lady Dreaming Owl (Susan Miller) by Don Waterhawk and was then passed from her to us. Mary Francis, who performed the dance at the Full Moon Ritual on March 3rd, will lead the class and teach this beautiful dance to those who wish to learn.



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 and recycle out and make sure to put lids on those cans to keep the critters from making a mess. Just these few simple tips can help make sure that we have a sanctuary that's ready to use when we want to use it, and helps keep the grounds looking beautiful!



Migrant Workers Program

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.



Minister's Hours

Rev. Liz will be in the UUCT Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00PM to 7:00PM.

She is available for consultation in her home office on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays between 9:00AM and 5:00PM at 727-599-6132.

She tries to observe a Sabbath (i.e., a total day off) on Wednesdays and her monthly Sunday off. However, like most ministers, she is available 24/7 for emergencies.



Earth Scouts

Chris Hendrickx on behalf of Kelli Lopardo

Imagine a community where children and youth

- Appreciate one another's differences
- Have awe and a sense of wonder about nature and the cosmos
- Engage in making their school and community better
- Value independence and cooperation
- Seek peaceful solutions to problems
- Welcome new knowledge and experiences

Earth Scouts is a new national program developed by Earth Charter US that inspires the above qualities in boys and girls from 3 to 13 years of age and engages them in actions. It is based on the Earth Charter: A Declaration of Interdependence, with badges centered on universal human rights, eliminating poverty (economic justice), participatory democracy, respect for nature and a culture of peace.

The Earth Scouts is for boys and girls age 3 to 13 and does not exclude on the basis of sexual or gender identity. Also, the Earth Scouts welcomes all people without regard to race, ethnicity, religious orientation or other such differences. If you are interested in promoting the principles of the Earth Charter for the highest good of the Earth and her people, we invite you to participate. We are an inclusive organization that emphasizes equality, exploration, justice, and community.

Please join us for the next meeting of Earth Scouts on April 26th at 7:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist church of Tampa! More information about Earth Scouts can be found at <http://www.earthscouts.org>.



Help Women In Need In Iraq

Jim McPeak

Individual sponsorships are a direct, personal, hands-on way for women in the U.S. and elsewhere to help women survivors of war. Sponsors are matched with a woman in one of Women for Women International's operating countries. The sponsor provides \$27 in monthly financial support that allows a woman to obtain basic necessities for her family - food, clean water, medicine; pay school-related expenses for her children; begin the recovery process by investing in training; or use the funds as seed capital where groups of sponsored women pool their funds to collectively start a cooperative, joint project to start a small business. A portion of the sponsorship funds are also used to provide each woman with skills training, rights awareness education and other services that help her rebuild her life.

As a sponsor you will be asked to provide a direct monthly contribution of \$27 to Women for Women International. A portion of these funds are given to your sister so she can provide her family with basic necessities. The remaining funds are used to provide her with rights awareness training, leadership education and vocational skills training so she can continue to support her family in the future. In all countries in which we operate, \$5 of your monthly contribution will pay for the administrative support of the programs.

To learn more about our Sponsorship Program, visit our online Sponsorship Community by visiting www.womenforwomen.org and click on "Sponsorship Community" on the left-hand side of the page.



Iraq War Victim Relief Kits

Jim McPeak

Another way to assist victims of the war in Iraq is to make a kit of items to be distributed by the Mennonite Central Committee. They have volunteers that risk their lives so the Iraqi people can receive these items.

Contents requested in each kit: (NEW items only)

- 4 bars bath soap (4-5oz, in wrappers)
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (13-24oz; place bottle in a resalable plastic bag)
- 10 cups powdered laundry detergent (double bag in 1 gallon resalable plastic bags)
- 1 squeeze-tube toothpaste (minimum 6oz; leave in box)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (leave in packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark color)
- 1 hairbrush (remove packaging)
- 1 comb (8")
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- 1 package sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi or ultra thin)

Place contents in a box or bag and deliver to one of the [drop-off locations](#) in Canada or the U.S. The kit will be re-packed in a new 5 gallon plastic pail with lid.

Our closest drop off location:
Sarasota Mennonite Relief Center
3630 Birky Street
Sarasota, FL 34232-2426
(941) 954-5481

For more information, please see <http://www.mcc.org/kits/relief/>.

Want to help, but don't want to drive to Sarasota?

Jamie Hendrickx, our office administrator, has offered to collect kits and transport them.

Walk in the Park

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.



HOPE: Mark Your Calendar! Make a Difference! Carol Partington

Mark your calendar for the public Action April 23rd. This is your chance to join with other HOPE members to make a difference in Hillsborough County. UUCT belongs to HOPE, so all UUCT members belong to HOPE, and everyone is welcome at HOPE.

HOPE - Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality - is focusing on transportation and homelessness this year. You are needed at this action, along with your friends, to meet collectively with officials who have the authority to implement proposals to address specific community problems. Our power is in people, hundreds of people. Help us turn out hundreds by committing to be there and bring friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The more people we turn out, the more impact on the decision-makers.

The transportation committee will present requests to further improve bus transportation. HART's cooperation with last year's request to extend late night routes was very encouraging.

The homelessness committee has been meeting with local officials and attended a "Housing First workshop" to research the current situation and explore "best practices" around the country. By working closely with the Hillsborough County Homeless Coalition, we hope to create a proposal that supports our collective vision.

Mark your calendars for Monday, April 23rd.
Sign-in: 6:30 pm, Agenda: 7 pm - 8:30 pm
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
4311 San Miguel St., in South Tampa 33629
(at corner of Henderson Blvd., west of S. Dale Mabry)

See you there!

For further info, contact Carol Partington,
yellowcap9@yahoo.com, 813.985.9109 or
Sharon Streater, sharon@hope.fdn.com, 813.221.4673

Calendar of weekly events

SUNDAY

- 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

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

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

Calendar of April Events

- Apr 1:** Beyond Categorical Thinking (after service)
- Apr 2:** CUUPS Meeting 7:00 PM
CUUPS Class: Dance of Life 7:30 PM
- Apr 3:** Adult RE: Confronting the Koran 7:00 PM
- Apr 4:** SHAAG 7:00 PM
Search Committee 7:00 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM
- Apr 5:** RE Committee 6:30 PM
Camping Trip – Lake Louisa (Apr 5-7)
- Apr 8:** Easter egg hunt & party
- Apr 9:** Adult RE: Engaging our Theological Diversity 7:00 PM
- Apr 10:** Adult RE: Confronting the Koran 7:00 PM
- Apr 11:** Search Committee 7:00 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM
- Apr 12:** Sustainability 7:00 PM
Worship Committee 7:00 PM
- Apr 15:** CUUPS Wicca 101 Ritual Planning 12:30 PM
- Apr 16:** Finance Committee 7:00 PM
- Apr 18:** SHAAG 7:00 PM
Search Committee 7:00 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM
- Apr 19:** Board meeting 7:00 PM
- Apr 21:** Getting to Know UU 9:00 AM
- Apr 23:** Hope Action
- Apr 24:** Adult RE: Confronting the Koran 7:00 PM
- Apr 25:** Search Committee 7:00 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM
- Apr 26:** Earth Scouts 7:00 PM
- Apr 28:** CUUPS Full Moon Celebration 7:30 PM

The Final Word

A periodic column on policies & procedures at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

This column is used to clarify and communicate policies and procedures for our congregation. If you have an idea for a future topic, please contact Chris by email (Domelight@chrisandjamie.net) or leave a note in the Domelight box at the church

This month's topic is communications. There are several great ways to communicate with the congregation of The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. Unfortunately, there is a bit of confusion on how to utilize them.

E-Group – The church has an E-Group. You can subscribe at <http://www.uutampa.org> by clicking the “Related Links” button and entering your email address. Conversation about various topics occurs on the E-Group.

Domelight newsletter – Deadline is the Sunday closest to the 15th of the month. Editor is Chris Hendrickx. Submissions may be made by email to Domelight@chrisandjamie.net or left in the Domelight box at the church. Final decisions on content included are made by the Communications Committee and there is limited space so articles may be edited for brevity.

Printed Announcements in the Order of Service – Firm deadline is 10:00 AM on the Thursday before the service. Submissions may be made by email to info@uutampa.org or left in the Order of Service Announcements box at the church. Space is limited, final decisions on what will be printed rests with the church office staff.

Spoken Announcements during Sunday Service – should only be used if the announcement was not published in the Order of Service or the announcement is of great importance. Should be **very brief**, and if further detail is necessary, something like “if you want to know more, see me after service” should be used.

Web Site – Requests for items to be added to the web site should be sent to our webmaster, Mary by email at gldnpuma@earthlink.net.

A Month of Sundays at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

April 1: *Beyond Categorical Thinking*

April 8: *Looking for Easter*: Rev. Liz preaches on Easter from a UU perspective. The UUCT choir will perform some wonderful music.

April 15: TBD

April 22: *Spirituality of Imperfection*: Rev. Liz will reveal the secrets of a tradition just as longstanding as the spirituality of perfection -- and a lot more fun!

April 29: *Why Unitarian Universalists Need the Goddess*: Rev. Liz will preach on neo-paganism, the faith path that brought her to Unitarian Universalism. Music will be provided by the CUUPS drummers.

Want to get this by mail? – See Page 3