



Domelight



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

January 2009
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

Minister's Musings

Rev. Sara Zimmerman



"Thinking machines will evolve much more quickly than Darwin evolution."

I heard it on National Public Radio, on a program called "360." It was a recent mid-December day. I was driving, or maybe doing dishes. In any case, I stopped everything and scribbled it down. Don't ask me the context. Don't ask me who said it. I only know I heard it while doing something else. Often I hurriedly write down things of interest, thinking one day I might use it for a sermon or the Domelight.

Of course when I heard that "thinking machines will evolve much more quickly than Darwin evolution," my mind began to play with absurdities. What would such a machine look like? Would it be a great giant head? Would it be made to resemble a human? And how would each stage of the evolution be identified? I mean, how could we tell it is evolving? What traits would scientists measure?

But most of all, I wondered about the capacity of thinking machines to have feelings. Feelings like awe and joy and sorrow. It's an occupational focus to think about feelings. I am, after all, a clergy person. While I was considering the feelings of "thinking machines," I noticed an article from *The Washington Post* as reprinted in the Tampa Tribune on December 16. Under the photo of a dog was this caption: *A study suggests animals, such as this husky pup, have much richer emotional lives than humans have traditionally thought.*

Here's a synopsis of the article: Austrian scientists have discovered that animals have emotions. All kinds of animals, not just our closest known relatives, the chimps and monkeys. The scientists said that the more they learned about animals, the

more they realized that feelings they thought were unique only to humans and their closest relatives were not so unique, after all.

This is news? Any dog or cat owner knows about this. Now it is scientifically proven! From my lanai this afternoon, to the southeast I have a good view of the island in the middle of the lake. With binoculars, I can see a great blue heron, a baby crocodile, and a large turtle hanging out and napping together in the same 12-square foot area. I wonder if they are sharing their feelings in an evolved compassionate state we know nothing about, or are simply planning their next best chance to devour the most fish or each other.

Anyway, back to the thinking machine. I'm guessing that it isn't designed to deal with feelings. As it evolves, will it be more likely to do so? Be more likely to feel compassion? Be more likely to agree with UU principles and purposes? While on the one hand, I'm just having fun with this idea, on the other hand I can't stop wondering. I'm wondering if homo sapiens is *only now* able to "prove" that animals have feelings, will it also be slow to see the need to pair feelings with thinking in the evolved versions of the "thinking machine"? Would such a pairing be desirable? If you care to respond to this, send your responses – funny or serious, full of feeling or strictly scientific -- to me at revsaraz@aol.com, and I may use them in a future sermon. On Darwin Day.

I'll be in Chicago at the Meadville Lombard Theological School during the second half of January as I complete coursework for the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Meanwhile, I'll see you at church!

Rev. Sara

Circles In The Woods CUUPS

By Chris Hendrickx

Circles in the Woods CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is a committee within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. While there is no cost for most of our events, love donations to UUCT are greatly appreciated. All money goes directly to UUCT.

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 Full Moon Celebration: Join Circles In the Woods CUUPS in welcoming Shalee Coven to the Dome as they present a chocolate ritual on January 10th at 7:30 PM. Shalee Coven members are regulars at rituals and have a lot of experience doing public ritual at the Dome and elsewhere. Their rituals are always spectacular, and, of course, this one promises to be extra sweet!!

Upcoming Classes: The 2009 Circles In The Woods CUUPS Wicca 101 series begins this month. The dates for the classes are January 5th & 19th, February 9th & 16th, and March 2nd & 16th. This 6-class series is held from 7-9:30pm (with a short break in the middle of the class), and is taught by members of Circles In The Woods CUUPS. Those new to Wicca or curious about Wicca are encouraged to attend; however, this class is also useful for those wishing to “brush up” on the basics. Materials, handouts, and binders are provided. A

donation to UUCT of \$30 for the entire series is suggested, but not required. Titles of the classes are listed here, with more details and instructor bios available at www.uutampa.org/cuups.

- Class 1: Monday, Jan..5th, 7-9:30pm: *Herstory*
- Class 2: Monday, Jan. 19th, 7-9:30pm: *Goddess & God*
- Class 3: Monday, Feb. 9th, 7-9:30pm: *The Wheel of the Year*
- Class 4: Monday, Feb.16th, 7-9:30pm: *Magick & Ethics*
- Class 5: Monday, March 2nd, 7-9:30pm: *Ritual Tools & Basics*
- Class 6: Monday, March 16th, 7-9:30pm: *The Working Circle*

Pagan Concert &

Fundraiser: On Jan. 16th, CUUPS will present The Travelling Fates, Music and Mischief tour. This Pagan group consists of SJ Tucker (aka Skinny White Chick), Ginger Doss and Bekah Kelso of *Dreamtribe*. The show in the large dome begins at 7pm and tickets are just \$10. (That's 3 artists for the price of 1!!)



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SUBSCRIPTION. *Domelight* deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. There is a firm deadline for the next issue is at the end of service on. **Jan 18** Articles may be submitted by e-mail to

Domelight@uutampa.org Submissions should include a contact name and phone number. Editor: Liz Bleau

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Sometime in early January your telephone might ring. On the other end of the line might be a friend from church, asking you to participate in a confirmation study for UUCT's capital campaign.

The purpose of that confirmation study is to make sure the congregation is prepared to proceed with the campaign. The Hoffman preliminary design has been accepted and general cost is known, but detailed plans and specifications haven't been developed yet. Are we ready to go?

To answer that question, the study will explore:

1. how well the proposed building program is understood and supported;
2. how much money might be raised in a capital fund drive;
3. and the overall vigor of the congregation.

The sample

If you've been chosen to be a part of the study, you're among a sample of all members who provide more than minimal financial support to the church. You and the rest of the sample are representative of our church supporters in age, gender, marital status, length of membership, activity and other demographic features. The sample includes 24 households selected by Rev. Sara, our consultant David Rickard, and the UUCT Membership and Capital Campaign Steering committees.

A list of the 24 study participants will be posted at the church. If you were not chosen but would like to be added, and are a financial supporter of the church, you may then make your request to Ara Rogers or Pat Benedict. Their phone numbers are below.

Who's in charge

Conducting interviews for the study and interpreting the results will be David Rickard of UUA. He'll also write and submit a final report on the findings.

A congregational stewardship consultant for UUA, Rickard brings to us 30 years of experience as a fundraising consultant who has served more than 250 UU congregations. He is a past president of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock and of the Massachusetts Bay District, and was twice elected to the UUA General Assembly Planning Committee.

The process

If you're chosen for the study, you and the other participants will be interviewed by Rickard separately at the church some time during January 26-29. The set of questions he'll ask will have been tailored to our particular project and reviewed beforehand by the Capital Campaign Committee. You can speak freely, for you'll be guaranteed confidentiality, but Rickard will take notes to insure an accurate report.

Results

The final report will be in three parts. First, on January 30, Rickard will deliver an oral report of preliminary findings to the Board, the Combined Capital Campaign Steering Committee and Rev. Sara after the interviews are complete.

Next, within ten days he'll submit his written report. This full report will also go to the Board, the Combined Capital Campaign Steering Committee and Rev Sara.

However, it will include a summary to be sent to all members of the congregation before the congregational meeting at which we'll vote on whether or not to proceed with the capital fund drive.

Though not distributed to the entire congregation, the full report will be available at the church for review by any member.

Conclusions

Included in the full report will be:

- attitudes and opinions of interviewees generalized to the congregation as a whole;
- an estimate of how much can be raised from a capital fund drive;
- issues, if any, that might have an adverse impact on the capital campaign;
- recommendations as to whether to proceed immediately or delay while addressing certain issues;
- and, if feasible, a recommendation for the goal of the capital campaign.

If you're called

So if your telephone rings in early January and you're asked to participate in the study, please say "yes!" It's very important before we embark on a project of this magnitude that we have all the information we need to make it work.

For more information, call the chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee, Ara Rogers, 813-265-3157, or Pat Benedict, 813-968-1418.

Join in the Journey!

What To Do With The Small Dome?

On two Sundays January 11th and 25th, following the Church service, 12:30 p.m. the Long Range Planning Committee will hold a discussion concerning the "fate" of the Small Dome after the new building is completed. Will we keep the Small Dome? For what should it be used? How will it be renovated for use? All are invited and encouraged to join us with ideas. Don't miss this opportunity to be heard. This will be a brainstorming session and the LRP Committee will be listening and recording your thoughts. Refreshments will be served.

Thank You All

The 2009 Stewardship Committee would like to thank all who participated and volunteered in this year's campaign. We had a successful Stewardship Campaign Drive that would not have been possible without our many volunteers, and the generous members of UUCT! Thank you all for a great 2009 Stewardship Campaign!! ~ Pat Benedict & Jamie Hendrickx, 2009 Stewardship Campaign Committee

Is Your Guest Still at Your Table?

Remember in mid-November, we passed around the familiar little boxes from UUSC? The UU Service Committee, the human rights organization whose work is based on our UU principles, carries out social justice projects around the world. Distribution of these boxes at Thanksgiving time signals the beginning of our annual Guest-at-Your-Table fundraiser to help support the work of the UUSC. By placing the box on your table during the holiday season, you will be reminded of the many needs around the world each time you sit down for a meal and each time you add money to the box, you will be adding your support to help carry out the work of the Service Committee.

We will be finishing up our fund drive and collecting your contributions during the January 18 worship service.

Please count up the money you have collected in your box and write a check to UUSC in that amount. Bring it on Sunday the 19th and drop it in the collection basket or give it to Fran Davin before or after the service. Also, remember to fill out the form on the bottom of the box

and turn that in with your check. And please remember, all donations of \$100 or more will be matched by the congregation at Shelter Rock, NY.

The UUSC and their beneficiaries

Take Time Now to Read.

Adult RE will offer a book discussion of *Three Cups of Tea*, early February, date TBA in February Domelight. Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin's nonfiction bestseller, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations... One School at a Time*, offers an antidote to war.



During winter 2009, the Social Action Committee plans to work with RE Youth to get UU families involved with an organized Tampa Bay *Pennies for Peace* school initiative. Reading the book will help you know the man who started *Pennies for Peace*. The book is obtainable from the library, although there is a request list. Pat Busbice has purchased some paperbacks to give or share in the fellowship. Pat and Robin Leigh will co-lead the book discussion. Tom Brokaw writes, "*Three Cups of Tea* is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world." For further information, contact Fran Davin, Pat Busbice, or Robin Leigh.

CONCERTS IN THE UU DOME

by Gloria Holloway, Committee Chair

In 2009 we will be in our 13th year of the "Concerts in the UU Dome" series. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the concerts over the years. In January there will be two concerts/events as part of the regular "Dome" series. A third concert is being presented separately by CUUPS. Please refer to the CUUPS concert info elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Jan 4th, 3pm, there will be a double bill with two husband & wife duos. SMALL POTATOES (Jacqui Manning & Rich Preziosa) and Hymn for Her (Maggi and Pierce from the MPE band). \$12 advance \$15 at the door. You can pay in advance on-line at the church website or see me.

On Sun. Jan 18, from 3pm to approx 7pm (with a pre-event acoustic jam/song circle on the grounds from 1:30 - 2:45; participants and listeners welcome) there will be a mini-folk fest (including brief commentary), inspired by the award winning radio documentary "APALACHICOLA DOIN' TIME" about Florida's precarious water situation and the tri-state water wars (Florida, Georgia, Alabama) and produced by the University of Florida and WUFT Gainesville. Our mini-fest is a co-production with Friends of Florida Folk, Inc. We will feature commentators Dale Crider, biologist and Florida environmentalist. Bill Beckett and Donna Green-Townsend, from WUFT, who helped produce the documentary. Music and musicians from the documentary will also be featured: Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen, Mike Jurgensen, Ken & Leigh Skeens, Dale Crider, Jenny James & Ron Gilbert, Jeanie Fitchen and Mark Smith. There will also be a beautiful Florida nature artwork display by Brandon artist Roxanne Tobiason. \$15 adults. \$7 teens. 12 & under no charge.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Fellow
Congregants,

It is always
appropriate at this time
year to wish one another
“Happy New Year.”

Looking back over the
events of the part year,
2008, I find that I would
first like to thank you all
for a “Happy Last Year.” The growth within our
community during this past year was incredible! As
we have grown economically stronger, we managed
to add contractual employees, expanded our useable
meeting spaces, and have begun to explore the
possibility of erecting a new building.

Just as a gentle reminder, we concluded 2007
with a lot of optimism, but not a great deal of
assurance that we would have a financially secure
year in 2008. After all, our congregationally
approved 2008 budget required that we take in
\$20,000.00 in fund raising and use money from
reserves if we encountered shortfalls. The good
news was we did take in near or over \$20,000.00 in
2008 fund raising activities, and had no shortfalls.
Our reserve accounts remain intact.

A beautiful new gazebo has appeared on our
grounds as a short term solution to our meeting
space problem. Although it may look like
something out of a romantic illustration, the gazebo
did not appear as if by magic. Thorough planning
by dedicated volunteers and generous donations
from our congregants produced this wonderful
addition to our grounds.

Other 2008 additions included adding a paid
accompanist to our choir and a second childcare
worker to the nursery staff on Sundays. Our dream
of erecting a new building to provide more meeting
space for religious education and other activities
continues. At our December 14, 2008,
congregational meeting, the congregation endorsed



of
a

our Building Design Committee's revised master
plan & Phase I plans.

The year 2008 was a very good year for us all.
May 2009 will be an even better one, thanks to you
all.

Ed Benedict
President, BOT



January Green Group News

By Kathi Dorman

There will be no meeting January 4th. The January
11 topic will be Native Plants and Conservation.
On January 18th Tempie Taudte will discuss the
book, My Space Our Planet

Change is Possible, a
complete how-to guide to
saving the environment,
written by the MySpace
community with Jeca Taudte
(Tempie's cousin) and
forward by Tom Anderson.

The January 25 topic will be
Green nature identification on UU property.



During this month we will also discuss some green
ideas that our church community can implement.
Some ideas are to provide a locally grown or
organic snack for religious education, donate an
environmental book, game, or puzzle to religious
education, sponsor kids to help at Buildings and
Grounds. Maybe they can weed the Memorial
Garden or clean-up the Small Dome. Other ideas:
Have a book discussion group that focuses on green
topics. Show a movie such as *The Inconvenient
Truth*. Share some locally grown snacks and
meaningful conversation after the movie.

The Green Group encourages all UU members and
friends to help our environment. It is an important
way to live our faith and honor our earth.

Nominating Committee Seeks Chairs

Jamie Hendrickx

No, not folding chairs or office chairs, or even highchairs! We need some volunteers for *Committee Chairs*!! So, how does this Nominating Process work? The Nominating Committee searches for individuals who would make a good match for the position. They approach the potential Chair, describe the position, and ask if the individual is willing to accept the nomination to the given position. If he or she accepts the nomination, it is forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval. Of course, if an individual is interested in volunteering for a vacant position, they are encouraged to approach a Nominating Committee member or Board of Trustees Member and voice their interest. (How can we nominate you if we don't know you're interested?)

The Nominating committee is seeking to fill the following vacant positions:

- 2010 Stewardship Chair (work to begin in March)
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Building and Grounds Chair
- Nominating Committee Member
- Social Activities Committee Chair
- YRUU Coordinator and Youth Leader (in partnership with RE Committee)

The Nominating Committee will be active in the coming months and will be requesting generous, qualified individuals to fill these open and very important positions within the church. If you are approached by a member of the nominating committee, please consider giving some of your time and energy to the important work at UUCT. You may find that you get much more out than what you put in! Remember, we are coming to you because we feel you would be good for the job. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions or if you would like more information on any of the positions, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Grant Wilson (its4grant@gmail.com or 813-833-0230), Martha Robinson (mrobins7@verizon.net or 813-985-4777), or Jamie Hendrickx (jamie@chrisandjamie.net or 813-708-1314).

Board Bytes



We had a great year in 2008 with a lot accomplished. We now have a gazebo and spruced up the church entrance, the bathrooms, and the small dome. During 2008, we had a successful UUA Marketing Campaign and welcomed a lot of new visitors; some stayed and are now members.

2009 promises to be equally exciting with the prospects of planning for a new building. On Sunday, December 14th, we held a Congregational meeting. The agenda included: Capital Campaign, 2009 Budget, Bylaw Changes, and Covenant Changes.

I think everyone would agree that the Capital Campaign presentation and discussion was the highlight of the meeting. There was a presentation by Hoffman Architects, P.A., who is our building architect. The project manager, Erin Ellis, reviewed a new master plan and the proposed design for the new religious education building. Check out the website for continued information at http://www.uutampa.org/capital_campaign.htm. Also, flags were placed on the ground marking the site of the new building. Our next step will be a visit from Dave Rickert, UUA consultant, this month, January, to work with our congregation to assist us in determining the amount of capital we can raise for the new building. The results of his recommendations will determine modifications to the proposed building plan.

And yes, this is the meeting where we approve the budget for the following year, so it is usually a long one. Can anyone remember a time when we accepted the annual budget without any changes? The 2009 budget was reviewed and approved without modifications. I think this was a first!

We approved some bylaw changes related to membership and on restricted donations, and we closed the meeting with some modifications to our Covenant. It was a very successful and productive meeting with interesting and significant dialogue. We have a lot to work on in 2009.

Mary Francis, Secretary

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, January 2009

I hope you experienced a joyful holiday season and are ready for a new year. In December I wrote about Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) and committed to continuing with information about this valuable organization in January. CBCO has the capacity to change UUism by deepening congregational involvement in social justice in a way that enables us to really understand and work for social change in community with others. Also CBCO has the unique ability to increase congregations become multicultural and racially diverse, and can develop and train leaders whose skills can enrich congregational life.



Although CBCO historically has been predominantly Christian it can be more effective in claiming moral authority if it represents a broad, diverse base of religious groups. CBCO knows and operates on the basis that there is power in numbers and UU membership signals to other non-Christian congregations that they are welcome and encouraged to become CBCO members.

The process of joining includes an initial exploration of CBCO with meetings between the minister and key leaders and a CBCO organizer. A core group of 5 to 20 members is formed and they continue with research and educating the congregation. The core group is trained to lead an initiative. The core group is trained to conduct one-to-one meetings, house meetings, and to chair committee meetings. While these activities are taking place there continues to be support-building for CBCO within the congregation. It is also essential to have clergy support for this work. If the congregation decides to join there is continued process of relationship building within the congregation. Issues to address are identified, researched, and solutions developed by holding seminars with experts, meetings with public/private officials, and talking with people who are knowledgeable about the issue. Once the issue is resolved, the CBCO group moves on to a different issue. Through all the steps the core group and clergy take leadership roles by speaking

at, organizing, running, and hosting large and small meetings and attend training on several levels to develop their leadership skills.

Benefits from participation are numerous: more and deeper relationships among congregants and with members of other faith traditions, increased lay leader involvement in congregational work and public action, more effective social justice work, building interfaith and interracial relationships, and bringing new people in new ways. Congregations will reap the rewards of participation despite the work involved, and realize the benefits of participation far outweigh the costs.

I could write much more but space prohibits, so suggest you contact Fred Seidl, UU Organizer and CBCO Consultant (fseidl@uua.org) or Susan Leslie, Director of the UUA Office for Congregational Advocacy and Witness (sleslie@uua.org). They would be glad to hear from you...as would I, at jlund@uua.org. Happy New Year one and all!

Save the Date:

Saturday, February 14,
2009



Why? Valentine's Day
Event at the Church

More details to follow in the coming
months - But, Save the Date!!

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

Reflections:

Katie Culbert, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

Every one of us is a religious educator. Every time we come to church, we model for each other how to be religious. Every time we come to church, we model for each other 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 2009 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? a child? youth? 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?

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 January 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 Where you can click on events to pull up additional information for each listing.

Monday, Jan. 5: 7 p.m. CUUPS meeting; 7 p.m., Social Action Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Lifespan Meditation, 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m., Worship Committee, Youth RE Committee

Wednesday, Jan. 7: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Worship Committee

Thursday, Jan. 8: 8:30am Walk in the Park

Saturday, Jan. 10: 9 am. Building & Grounds,
7:30 pm, CUUPS Full Moon Circle

Monday, Jan. 12: 7 p.m., Finance Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 13:
5:30pm, Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation
7-8:30 pm, Small Group Ministry: Meaningful Sharing Discussion Group

Wednesday, Jan. 14: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pm SHAAG
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Thursday, Jan. 15 : 8:30 am, Walk in the Park; 6 pm, UUCT Board Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 15: 6-7 pm CUUPS Annual Silent Auction
7:30pm CUUPS Full Moon Celebration

Friday, Jan. 16: 7 pm CUUPS concert, details in this issue

Monday, Jan. 19: 7 pm, CUUPS, Wicca

Tuesday, Jan. 20: 5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation

Wednesday, Jan. 21: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Thursday, Jan. 22: 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park

Monday, Jan. 26: 6:45 p.m. Small Group
Ministry: Genealogy

Tuesday, Jan. 27: 5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation
7 pm. Small Group Ministry: Women's Spirituality

Thursday, Jan. 29: 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park

- 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.



For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com

www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

A Month of Sundays at UUCT

Please note: All Sunday services begin at 11 a.m. and are led by the Rev. Sara Zimmerman unless otherwise noted.

January 4th: *Tea and Flowers: A trip to Japan reveals all we need to know about life, learning and service.* Rev. Lee Barker. This message will be brought to us by our special guest **Lee Barker, President, Meadville Lombard Theological School**. Lee is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. He was elected to the presidency of Meadville Lombard after twenty-five years in the parish ministry. He has held pulpits in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Most recently, he served as senior minister of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasadena, California. Each of his ministries has contributed to a surge in institutional growth, a renewed commitment to social justice and the adoption of a far ranging religious and spiritual vision. He and his wife Kristina, a Chicago based landscape architect, have one daughter, Ava, a first-grader.

January 11th: *A New Year and a New Start: Resolutions inspired by Gavitos, a Colombian "Topia" with the Rev. Sara Zimmerman.* . Beginning in 2009, if you could live in a perfect world, what would it look like?

January 18th: "A Walk on the Wild Side: Your Brain's Creation Story" Connie Barlow

Preceded by Connie's 5-minute **story for all ages** "Animals in Your Brain" (with puppets).

Unitarian Universalists, as freethinkers, have long appreciated the scientific endeavor for what it can tell us about the vast Universe and the depths of prehistory. The young sciences of Evolutionary Psychology and Evolutionary Brain Science are now beginning to offer practical tools that can assist us in leading fulfilled, on-purpose lives — and that can call forth compassion when we and others fail to live up to our commitments and ideals. Indeed, these sciences teach that "inherited proclivities," which served our pre-human ancestors, are at the root of our most challenging personal issues today: relationship troubles and our tendencies to use food and other substances in unhealthy ways. *Connie Barlow and her husband, Rev. Michael Dowd, have presented programs at more than 300 UU churches and fellowships. Their "evolutionary evangelism" is a featured article in the spring 2006 issue of UU World.* Their website: www.TheGreatStory.org

About Connie Barlow: Connie is the author of 4 popular science books that bridge evolution and meaning. Her 2001 book, *The Ghosts of Evolution*, was Amazon.com's top-recommended science book for several months. Her 1997 book, *Green Space Green Time*, was excerpted as the cover story of the December 1998 issue of *UU World*. Since April 2002, Connie and her husband (Michael Dowd) have lived entirely on the road, delivering talks at more than 300 UU congregations, summer camps, and minister retreats, as well as for other religious and secular groups. They have been called "America's evolutionary evangelists." Their traveling ministry was featured as the cover story of our national membership magazine, *UU World*, in the spring of 2006.

January 25: *Friendship* Katie Culbert

Our Religious Education program for children and youth is growing; our congregation is adding members every month. Katie says, "I chose this theme because it seems like a good time in our congregation to welcome new friends into our circle and reflect on what that means." An intergenerational service.