



Domelight



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

July 2008
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

Minister's Musings The Rev. Sara Zimmerman

Hello Everyone,



I'll be doing some traveling this month, July 3rd to the 13th, headed to the upper Midwest where my grandchildren Henry (4) and Helen (1 ½) live with their parents in Milwaukee. During that time, I'll also be in Chicago at the Meadville Lombard Theological School

for an intensive, five-day course. Meadville is affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the University of Chicago and is located adjacent to the UC campus in Hyde Park.

I'm enrolled in a course called *Preaching As If You Mean It*. The instructor is William F. Schulz, a Unitarian Universalist minister who is now the Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. He has assigned us lots of reading and writing before we arrive for the first day of class.

One of the assignments is "a five-page paper on your source of hope. What is your fundamental theological/philosophical/psychological source of hope?" I am working on that assignment now, during the second half of June. It's a great question, causing me to dig deep and carefully discern those sources of hope.

When I'm at Meadville, I will meet with my faculty advisor and other Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) students for a consultation on my project. I have sat in on other Meadville D. Min. students' project consultations in the past. This is the first time that we will be discussing my project. I know it will be a useful discussion and that my

colleagues and advisor will have a lot of good advice. You will be hearing about my project in the coming months and will also have opportunities for input and evaluation.

Then when I return from the Midwest, on July 15th I'll be closing on the house I have just purchased in Hunter's Green. I've been living in an apartment in Tampa Palms since last September, and, recently realized my lease was about up and I needed to make a decision. And voila, what do you know, I will be moving just a mile or two north to a small, one story, three bedroom home on a pond.

Except for being away for 10 days in early July, I'll be in Tampa the rest of July and all of August. I know that in the past you were not used to seeing your minister in these summer months. However, in early talks with the Board, I agreed not to take my vacation and study leave all in one chunk. As a result of their request, I have spread out the "off" time and will be here during the second half of July and most of August.

In closing, a request: Please always let me know immediately if one of our congregation is ill or hospitalized. Because of the HIPPA laws passed about four years ago, hospitals do not notify clergy unless when you enter the hospital you specifically indicate your religious affiliation as UU and request that I be called.

Rev. Sara



Circles In The Woods CUUPS

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 direct cost for our events, we do put out a basket for love donations. All money collected goes 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 pay the bills are encouraged and welcomed! First-time ritual attendees, those interested in Wicca or Paganism, and their families are welcomed and encouraged to attend! We welcome all those who come in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust!!

Upcoming Rituals:

July 19th 7:30pm. Sacred Oaks Circle presents a Sun Signs ritual. Which Sun Sign are you, and what does that say about you?

Upcoming Classes:

July 7th, 2008 Circles in the Woods CUUPS will hold our monthly business meeting at 7:30 PM followed by a class on Wandmaking. All are welcome to attend; there will be a small donation for materials if you'd like to participate in the class.



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



Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary

The UUA General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale was held on June 25th to 29th and UUCT delegates were Kathy Hunter, Felice Richardson, and Gloria Holloway. Watch for news on what happened!

The Board will hold an off site meeting on July 19th and establish goals for the upcoming months. However, our main focus this year will be the Capital Campaign that was approved at the congregational meeting in May 2008. Accomplishments toward the Capital Campaign include:

- Congregational Meeting minutes were published on the website www.uutampa.org and the egroup
- Funding was approved for consultant
- Contract was signed and sent
- Architectural committee:
Fran Davin, Ralph Lehman, Steve Allison
- Design committee
Diana Stevens, and Martha Robinson - so far.
- Hospitality committee
Judy Lehman and Grant Wilson

There are committee openings, so let us know your expertise and interest.

For more detailed information, please see the most recent copy of the approved minutes posted in a binder under the bulletin board in the hallway, or just ask any Board member. Also, don't forget to attend the 'Meeting with the Board' held on the last Sunday of every month.

What's that Sound?

Bill Blymiller

Volunteers are needed to help in the sound room. If enough people volunteer, no single person would need to be doing sound more than once a month or so. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Bill Blymiller at bill@blymiller.com or stop by and talk to him. (He's the one in the sound room.)

What's Happening with Our RE Building? An Update

By Ara Rogers

Despite heat, humidity and travel plans this summer, many church members are working to make our new RE building a reality. Work on both the building project and a capital campaign to fund that building are well underway at our church. The Architect Selection Committee is soliciting and reviewing proposals from both architectural and "design-build" firms and should have someone selected in July. The Building Design Committee has been assembled and will be working with the selected firm to ensure the building meets our needs. And the Capital Campaign Committee is assembling and beginning to plan that campaign, scheduled for next spring. We hope everyone will get involved in making this long-deferred dream a reality. Questions? Comments? Want to help? Call or email me at 813-265-3157; mizzara@mindspring.com.

UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund

By the time you read this I, and over 450 Florida UUs, will have returned from General Assembly but the column must be written and sent before leaving for GA so it cannot be written about our big annual gathering. For July... sometimes called the doldrums of summer, I am writing about encouraging generosity, a topic of interest each year when our congregations embark upon the annual stewardship drive and/or whenever a congregation is involved in a capital campaign.

It has been said the first rule of raising funds is that people give when they are asked to give by someone to whom it would be embarrassing to say "no". What this says to me is the person who makes the solicitation is as important as the solicitation itself. In our canvass/stewardship drives never should an ungenerous giver be asked for more. People give to causes they care about and which address needs or programs important to them and generous giving is a learned behavior pattern.

Also of importance is to remember that generosity increases over time as gifts effectively support social and religious values, and when donors feel they are supporting higher values rather than lesser ones. Also persons give to support successes, not to make up for failures. They feel more inspired in giving to growth than to maintenance of the status quo. Religious liberals do not like to give to support congregational budgets but rather commanding visions, well-articulated missions, realistic plans that can be achieved, and campaigns where they participate with persons they admire and like.

Whether stated or not, givers expect something in return for their contributions, for instance: recognition, respect, perks (like being asked for an opinion), and handwritten thank you notes specifying the amount of the gift, signed by the president of the congregation, the canvass committee chair, and the minister. There are many ways to conduct canvass campaigns but none are likely to remain effective for more than three years in a row. And there are certain canvass activities that should continue throughout the year: ongoing solicitations of new members, solicitations of friends and supporters who are not members, personal solicitation of potential benefactors in the community, and written appeals and follow-up phone calls to benefactors who live far away.

Successful campaigns do more than just raise money. They also build loyalty and commitment to the congregation, develop positive relationships among the participants, The objective all canvass/campaigns is not just to raise money. The objective is to change the culture of giving in the congregation so that the membership defines itself as a "congregation of generous givers". For more thoughts on generosity or other thoughts you may have for me I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727. Continue to enjoy your summer and stay cool.



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.



Fair Trade Coffee

Susan Williams

The Green group has been selling Fair Trade coffee for some time now, and you may be asking yourself what does Fair Trade mean?

Fair Trade is much more than a fair price! Fair Trade principles include:

Fair price: Farmers receive a guaranteed minimum price and an additional premium for certified organic products.

Fair labor conditions: Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy freedom of association, safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited.

Community development: Fair Trade farmers workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, quality improvement trainings, and organic certification.

Environmental sustainability: Harmful agrochemicals and GMOs are strictly prohibited in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations.



REflections

By Katie Culbert

Summer's here! Yippee! Join us each Sunday in the small dome for a different fun activity focusing on spiritual practice. Each Sunday includes a chalice lighting, a getting to know you circle, an activity, a snack, and playtime. Here is the schedule:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| June 15 | Joan Lund | Katie Culbert | Dinosaurs/Fossils |
| June 22 | Liz Bleau | Candy Gale | Knitting/African dancing |
| June 29 | Joyce Formica | Kathi Dorman | Gardening |
| July 6 | Tempie Taudte | | Thai Chi |
| July 13 | Candy Gale | Katie Culbert | Basket weaving – everyone gets to help make a basket! |
| July 20 | Bill Blymiller | Kaarla McKenzie | Debate |
| July 27 | Kathi Dorman | Ronnie Kirchheimer | Art interpretation with hands on activity |
| August 3 | Joe Weinstein | Sherri Kindt | Fountains |
| August 10 | Tempie Taudte | | Genealogy and interviewing |
| August 17 | Dawn Bergeron | | Nature Appreciation – Nature walk |



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Download from <http://www.uutampa.org> free of charge. For a 1 year subscription by mail, please make a \$15.00 donation to the church office. Mark it **DOMELIGHT SUBSCRIPTION**. *Domelight* deadline is the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. Firm deadline for the next issue is at the end of service on **July 23rd**. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Domelight@uutampa.org or left in the *Domelight* box in the church office.

Submissions should include a contact name and phone number. Editor: Liz Bleau

A Thank You From Immokalee Workers

Fran Davin has received a note thanking her and the UUCT for support of their recent petition drive to convince Burger King to raise rates for tomato pickers. "The petition delivery sent a strong message that it is time for Burger King to finally ensure justice for those who pick its tomatoes. We could not have done this without you and we thank you for your work to raise awareness and collect signatures. The drive earned the workers an additional penny per pound of tomatoes picked, the first raise for them in decades.

The thank you letter signed by workers has been posted on the church bulletin board.

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

THURSDAY

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

Calendar of April Events

July 1-- 5:30pm Summer Meditation
7pm--Worship Committee

July 2—6:30 pm, First United Church of Tampa: 7308 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, FL UUCT member Fran Davin will be among the participants on the panel. 6:30 pm -- Covered dish dinner with program beginning at 7pm. On televangelist programs much is being made of the "Christian origins of the United States and its founding fathers" A panel representing two religious traditions with great influence among our founders, Congregational and Unitarian, will discuss key points of Forest Church's new book, "So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle over Church and State." The panel discussion is co-sponsored by First United Church (UCC) of Tampa, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. For an article on the topic by Forrest Church visit www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/50591.shtml.

July 3—7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

July 7-- 7pm CUUPS Meeting/Class
7pm Small Group Ministry: Genealogy

July 8---- 5:30pm Summer Meditation
7pm--Worship Committee

July 8--5:30pm Summer Meditation
7pm Small Group Ministry: Evensong

July 9--7pm SHAAG

July 10--7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

July 12--8am Young Adult Group Canoe Trip
9am Buildings & Grounds Workday

July 14--5:30pm Tampa/Hillsborough Human Rights Council
7pm Finance Committee

July 15—5:30pm Summer Meditation
7pm Youth RE Committee

July 17- -6pm UUCT Board Meeting
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

July 19--7:30pm CUUPS Full Moon Circle

July 21--7pm Small Group Ministry: Genealogy

July 22--5:30pm Summer Meditation
7pm Small Group, Ministry: Women's Spirituality

July 24—Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

July 27--12:15pm Your UU Board

July 29--5:30pm Summer Meditation

July 31—Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

THINK GREEN AS YOU CLEAN

Kathi Dorman of the Green Group



It isn't easy being green according to Kermit the frog. With the right attitude, it is do-able and necessary according to green group members worldwide. Why do you need to think green as you clean? Many household cleaners contain toxic chemicals. Toxins are harmful to plants, animals, people and the planet in general. Some green cleaners are quite common, affordable, and easy to use.

Lemon juice is great for cutting grease and providing a fresh scent. It can be used to remove tarnish on brass, aluminum, copper, and bronze. Do not use it on silver.

Baking soda is a wonderful stain remover for fruit juices and other light acids. It can be used for removing stains from tile, glass, china, and oven doors. Baking soda does an excellent job cleaning and deodorizing refrigerators.

Hydrogen peroxide is a mild alternative to chlorine bleach. It can be used to sterilize and remove stains.

Vinegar and water is grand for washing windows. Mixing half vinegar and half water usually does the trick. Dry the windows with newspapers. Mix vinegar and olive oil in equal proportions to use as furniture polish. Rub the furniture with a soft cloth.

Alcohol wipes can be used to sanitize many surfaces. They are good for computer keyboards, cell phones and doorknobs.

Happy cleaning with eco-friendly cleaners. Thanks for making our world safer and brighter!

The Green Group meets for an hour Sunday mornings at the church beginning at 9:45 a.m. for discussion, guest speakers and displays. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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.

July 6: *The Healing Power of Forgiveness.* Rom Delacroix, a member of UUCT, will share thoughts on this topic from his perspective as a medical professional

July 13: *Two Views of Consciousness.* Ann Cook, well-known Florida author and member of UUCT, will discuss her recently published novel, *Micanopy in Shadow*.

July 20: *What Does It Mean to Be a Unitarian Universalist?* Rev. Sara Zimmerman will reflect on our religious identity. What impact did the recent General Assembly have on this identity? What were the results of the voting on major issues?

JULY 27: *Religion and Science: Medical Ethics.* Rev. Zimmerman will identify a major issue of medical ethics, present various viewpoints on that issue, invite input from the congregation, and suggest the most ethical solution.

A big THANK YOU to Siobhan Herkert for the beautiful pen and ink drawing of the church used on the first page of this month's Domelight.

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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