



Domelight



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

March 2009
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

Minister's Musings Rev. Sara Zimmerman



Hello Everyone,

Charlie Clements will speak at the Florida District Annual Assembly! That's just one reason you will want to attend the three-day Assembly at the Sarasota Unitarian Universalist

Church on March 20-22. You can view the entire Assembly's events online and obtain registration forms at www.floridadistrict.org. If you don't have access to the internet, call Jamie Hendrickx at the church office, 813 988 8188, to request a copy of the agenda, or pick one up on a Sunday morning.

Several members of UUCT will participate. Joan Lund will offer one of the late Saturday afternoon "Broader Conversation" workshops. Her workshop is entitled "Our Unitarian Universalist Association Today." Joan is the Florida District's UUA Trustee.

I will participate in the Friday evening worship service with my colleagues in the District UU Ministers Association.

Judy Lehman, a member of the Florida District Board and a tireless participant behind the scenes, says "I am most excited about Charlie Clements coming to give the keynote address. And I always love to go to District Assembly and get together with members of other churches and hear what they are doing."

So who is Dr. Charlie Clements? An announcement about the Assembly says, "He is a well-known human rights activist and public health physician. Currently, he is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Throughout the years, Clements has faced several moral dilemmas that shaped his life. As a distinguished graduate of the

Air Force Academy who had flown more than 50 missions in the Vietnam War, he decided the war was immoral and refused to fly missions in support of the invasion of Cambodia."

"Later, as a trained physician, he chose to work in the midst of El Salvador's civil war, where the villages he served were bombed, rocketed, or strafed by some of the same aircraft in which he had previously trained. For two years in the late 1980s, Clements served as director of human rights education at UUSC, leading a number of congressional fact-finding delegations to Central America. In 1997, as president of Physicians for Human Rights, he participated both in the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony and the treaty signing for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Clements is author of *Witness to War* and subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary of the same title."

I am really looking forward to hearing Dr. Clements talk on Saturday morning, March 21 at 9:30 AM. The theme will be "Justice is Flowing." Dr. Clements will comment especially on the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**. The UDHR just celebrated its 60th birthday. It has been translated into more languages and has had more influence in the modern era than any other single document. Dr. Clements will explain how the UDHR, which is the foundation of UUSC's work, is having such an impact every day in virtually every country in the world. He will also explore how the UDHR will fit into Obama administration's foreign and domestic policy.

Be well, hope to see you at the Assembly, and see you in church!

Rev. Sara

Circles In The Woods CUUPS

By 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: Mar 14: Circle Of One promises a fun ritual and renewal of your inner child.

Upcoming Classes: All are welcome at meetings and classes. For our Wicca 101 classes we do ask for a donation of \$5.00 per class or \$30 for the 6 class series. All money goes directly to UUCT. Classes are from 7-9pm. Wicca 101 classes in February: March 2nd: Ritual Tools March 16th: The Working Circle

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

Don't forget to bring some canned goods for the migrant worker basket! They do have enough clothing but blankets are welcome. So check your cupboards and bring something the next time you come by the church.

Ollis Hughes, Charity Committee

Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary



There are no winter doldrums since the winter holidays have passed. Our church is busier than ever!

Social Justice Committee is sponsoring the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee to collect Pennies for Peace organization. Save your pennies and be ready when you are approached. I'm sure they will take nickels, dimes and quarters too.

One of our Florida Cluster representatives, Tom Hagner, has resigned to move north. That's different, isn't it? Tempie Taudte will replace Tom but there is room for one more representative if you are interested. Thank you, Tom, for all that you have done for our church.

Many of you participated in the Planning Committees survey conducted by David Rickart, UUA Consultant. What for the announcement of the Congregational Meeting on March 8th. The entire focus will be on the plans for our new building and Capital Campaign and your vote is necessary to move forward. Also, check out the website for continued information at http://www.uutampa.org/capital_campaign.htm.

As part of our continued effort to improve communication, the Covenant that was approved at the December Congregational meeting is now on our website under Membership at <http://www.uutampa.org/membership.htm>

If you would like more detailed Board of Trustee information, please see the most recent copy of the approved Board meeting minutes posted in a binder under the bulletin board in the hallway, or ask any Board member. Board of Trustee members include:

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

GREEN GROUP HAS NEW SCHEDULE AND NEW COURSE ON FOOD

Come help us explore the connection between food and sustainability in our first Green discussion course **Menu for the Future**.

The Green Group meets every Sunday from 9:45 - 10:45 am in the Gazebo, or in the Dome balcony if it is cold outside. We welcome newcomers and drop-ins. We have chosen to divide up facilitation and topics. Tom Krumreich will be facilitating the 1st and 3rd Sundays with an informal discussion focusing on current events, local activism, and environmentally sound practices. Robin Leigh and Ron Chicone will share facilitation on the 2nd and 4th Sundays using discussion course guides developed by the Northwest Earth Institute. Once a month we will substitute one of these meetings with a short visit to Lettuce Lake Park, weather permitting.

Our first discussion course is **Menu for the Future**. It is not necessary to attend all meetings to gain something from the discussions. Discussion Goals for Menu for the Future:

- To explore food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems.
- To gain insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being.
- To consider your role in creating or supporting sustainable food systems.

For more information, go to:

http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses

The Green Group is an educational information-sharing discussion group offered as an ongoing Adult Religious Education program.

Our mission is to

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

The Green Group has its own electronic list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUCTGreenGroup/> There are many great environmental resources on the web and web link sharing is encouraged on the archived yahoo group. All meeting announcements and location changes will be posted on UUCT Green yahoo group

and the UUCT listserv. If you do not check the Internet and wish to be contacted by phone, let someone in the Green Group know.

When we choose to gather at Lettuce Lake, we will meet in front of the Nature Center at 9:30 am and proceed to a chosen location to relax and contemplate the rich tapestry of nature and our connection to it.

If you would like to be added to the UUCT Green Group yahoo group list, please contact moderator Robin at leigh520jr@yahoo.com

If you have any questions about the Green Group, contact Tom, Ron, or Robin during the coffee hour. We look forward to sharing the Green journey with you. It's fun and rewarding!

Robin Leigh, with assistance from Ron Chicone and Kathi Dorman

RUUGS PLANS OPERA OUTING

RUUGS (Rambunctious

UU Gallivanter) has planned its next outing for Saturday, March 7, with a trip to Citrus Park Mall Theaters to see the charming opera "Madama Butterfly". The HD simulcast from the



Metropolitan Opera will begin at 1pm. It is 3 hours 21 min. with 2 intermissions. We will meet at the theatre in the food court near the ticket booth at noon. For tickets go to www.fathomevents.com.

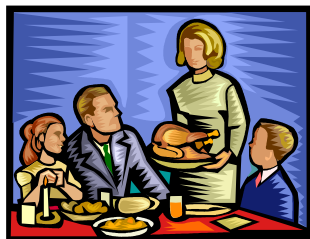
Choose the event from the drop down menu: Madama Butterfly. Enter your zipcode. Choose the Citrus Stadium Park Mall 20. Select: Buy tickets. If you don't have internet access, tickets may be purchased at the theater with a credit card. This is an extremely popular opera so get your tickets early.

Mark your calendars and join us for a delightful afternoon.

For questions for more information, call Beverly Bethune 813-907-6730 or Pat Benedict 813-968-1418.

FRIENDSHIP DINNER NEWS

As many of you know Andrea and Tom Hagner are leaving us in March. They have been such an integral part of the



Friendship Dinners that we are holding the March Dinner in honor of these two wonderful people. Because we believe many folks will want to attend and wish them fond farewell we will be holding the dinner at UUCT on March 7th at 6pm. The sign up sheet is posted in the hallway just outside the sanctuary doors so sign up as soon as possible. If you have any questions please call Martha Robinson 985-4777 or email me at martyr1140@gmail.com. In Community, Martha Robinson, Friendship Dinner Chair Person.



CARE Committee

The Care Committee strives to assist members and their families, when they are ill, bereaved, or feeling isolated, lending a helping hand. If you become ill or hospitalized, or know of someone with in our congregation that is in need of help, please let Rev Sara (988-8188) or a member of the Care Committee know. If you are interested in knowing more about the committee's ministry contact Joyce Formica (988-1907) or email her at keypouse2@aol.com



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SUBSCRIPTION. *Domelight* deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. Firm deadline for the next issue is at the end of service on **Mar 16th**. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Domelight@uutampa.org
Submissions should include a contact name and phone number. Editor: Liz Bleau

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Recently many of us attended a couple of open discussion sessions on what to do with the Little Dome sponsored by our Planning Committee.



While listening during the sessions, it occurred to me that many members of the congregation are not aware that the Little Dome had an unsung Good Samaritan about eight years ago, whose unexpected donation helped to repair and possibly save the building. Incidentally, even the donor was not aware of how deeply indebted we are to her.

The donor I am writing about was named Joanna Corley. She was never a member of our church, but a very good friend. Joanna came frequently to services in the late 1990's. She shared one Sunday in 1999 during the Joys and Sorrows portion of the service that she was to receive an organ transplant at Shands University Hospital in Gainesville. Following her transplant operation and during her convalescence, Joanna received Get Well cards from the congregation, organized by our Care Committee, and visits from members and our Minister at the time, Reverend Barbara Childs. Unfortunately there were complications during the recovery. Joanna Corley died on May 12, 2000.

Joanna remembered our congregations' acts of kindness by making the Church the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. These funds came at a very propitious time for the Church. The Little Dome, our center of children's religious education then and now, was in poor condition. Its skylight leaked badly and the exterior was turning blacker with each rain storm. The Board of Trustees used funds from Joanna Corley's bequest to repair the skylight and paint the Little Dome. By the way,

(continued on next page)

Capital Campaign Update



March 8 will be a red letter day for the Church. We must decide at a Congregational Meeting after the service that day whether or not we will proceed with our plans to build a new multi-purpose building and begin a fund-raising campaign.

By the time you're reading this issue of the Domelight, you'll have received in the mail a summary of UUA Dave Rickard's report on his Confirmation Study. His full report, including recommendations, is available on the UUCT website as well as on display in the Church foyer. In addition to the Board's Talk-Back session after the service on Sunday, Feb. 22, there will be another such session on Sunday, March 1. At both sessions you'll have a chance to ask all the questions that may be of concern to you about the building and the campaign.

Please plan to attend the March 8th Congregational meeting to help us make wise decisions for the future of our Church.

Join in the Journey!

FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 4)

some of Joanna's bequeathed funds still remain invested in a CD that can be used for similar emergency situations at the BOT's discretion.

This story of Joanna Corley is not an isolated example of the Good Samaritans, unsung or otherwise, our Church has had in its history. There are many others. We are a very fortunate congregation to have such generous friends. Please keep Joanna and her example of generosity in your thoughts as you make some important decisions this month, and in future months, regarding our Capital Campaign and personal estate planning.

Thanks.

Ed Benedict.



R.E.flections

By Katie Culbert
Director of Religious Education

Please make a note of the following calendar items:

March 15: Rev. Sara to visit

RE classes during our Web of Life unit

April 12: Worship for all ages followed by potluck luncheon and Easter Egg hunt

May 10: Mother's Day worship for all ages

June 7: Religious Education Sunday

Don't forget! A potluck picnic takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month for parents with children in the RE program. We will celebrate the birthdays of that month and socialize with one another.

Thanks to all our teachers and to our outstanding religious education committee!

Winter Semester teachers and guests: Laurie Ennis, Andrea NeCamp, John Platt, Sathya Rau, Rachel Weisman, Ronnie Kirchheimer, & Tom Raffle.

RE Committee: Candy Gale, Chair, Kaarla McKenzie, Ronnie Kirchheimer, Tempie Taudte, Dawn Bergeron, & Nicole Drelles.

Reminder: RE classes for children and youth end at 12:15. Please pick your children up from the small dome at that time.

Katie's Office Hours February: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 5:00 – 9:00. Please call or email for an appointment.

KatieCulbert@Verizon.net / 813-951-5680.

FORMER UCT MINISTER OFFICIATES AT OBAMA FAMILY SERVICE

By Suzie Siegel

Church members may not know that our longtime pastor, the Rev. Mike Young, conducted the memorial service for President Obama's grandmother.

Young was our pastor from 1982 until 1995, when he was called to the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu.



The service for Madelyn Dunham was held in December at the Honolulu church, the only UU church in Hawaii.

When Obama was in elementary school, Young said, either his grandmother or grandfather (there's confusion over which one) brought him to Sunday school there for several years.

The Dunhams had attended a Unitarian church in the Seattle area when Obama's mother was a teenager. Although there's no record of their attendance at the Honolulu church, Obama writes about it in his memoir "Dreams From My Father," and one family who still attends the church remembers him.

When Young reminded Obama at the memorial service, "his eyes lit up, and he turned to Michelle and said, 'Hey, that's right. This is where I went to Sunday school.'"

Obama spent some time on the second floor, where Sunday school is held, but didn't recognize anything. That's not surprising, Young said, because the church has been renovated over the years. The 100-year-old building had been an estate of the Cooks, a well-known family in Hawaii.

The ability to control access may be the most important reason the church was chosen for the memorial service, Young said. He's proud that he managed to keep the service secret.

"The main emphasis from our point of view was to provide the family a place with no reporters, cameras or autograph hounds so that they could share in some intimate moments. And we pulled it off.

"The most interesting part was dealing with the Secret Service. I expected the Men in Black." Instead, he said, "it was much more like a fraternity party. They were relaxed, friendly, chatty" but still thorough, including four sharpshooters on the roof, with rifles assembled from suitcases.

He also thinks the church was chosen because he has worked with the mortuary that prepared Madelyn Dunham's body, and the staff knew he could handle memorial services for families with different religious backgrounds.

He gives more details about the service on Amazon.com at:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0963923153?tag=hypnomeditate-20&camp=14573&creative=327641&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=0963923153&adid=0K8ETG4QMEYD5ZJP0TX5&> This is the listing for his book "A Preacher's Poems," which was printed in December by a publisher who had first gotten to know his writing through his sermons on Zen Buddhism.

Young, known in Tampa for his social activism, voted for Obama.

"In the primary, I had a choice between the first woman and the first non-white, both of whom I could support. And it was the first time since I turned 21 that I voted for, rather than against, a presidential candidate."

Young refers to Obama as Barry. "That's who he was here. No one here called him Barack." At the memorial service, the 70-year-old minister saw Obama as "a tall skinny kid."

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

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

A newly forming UU affinity organization, Equal Access, is the topic for March. The Equal Access mission includes promoting equality and access for UUs with disabilities and comprehensive accessibility throughout our faith community. In addition, Equal Access pledges to advocate for full inclusion in our faith community by identifying, countering, and dismantling ableism and will advocate for people with disabilities throughout our larger world community.



We live in an ableist society that devalues persons based on various physical, sensory, mental health, and intellection disabilities, and vies privilege to those who are not disabled. Equal Access will be an anti-ableist group of folks with a variety of disabilities and their allies. It is known that each disability is affected by ableism in different ways and persons with disabilities have their own unique identities, challenges and solutions, ableism potentially can unite oppressed persons in a group dedicated to resistance. This does not diminish the challenges and solutions of each specific disability identity; instead it is an affirmation of the multiple layers of identity of every individual.

Some of the actions planned include: creating an atmosphere of openness and acceptance of persons with physical, sensory, mental health, and intellectual disabilities; educating all UUs about the social justice implications and impact of disabilities on our denomination and in our culture; developing and adopting accessibility policies and practices that endorse and ensure the full inclusion of members, friends, and guests with disabilities in a non-discriminatory manner; working with our UUA, the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee (JTWTC), and districts on disability-related social justice policy issues of non-discrimination and access; and encouraging all

persons with disabilities and their allies within the denomination to join in this effort.

I **encourage** you to be a part of our annual District Assembly in Sarasota later this month. jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.

VOICES OF THE UNHEARD

You can help speak for the VOICES OF THE UNHEARD, a new UU Legislative Ministry Florida project. On March 24-25, UULMF will join with the Florida Coalition for the Homeless in sponsoring a Legislative Day in Tallahassee. This is a wonderful opportunity for UUCT members to join our fellow UU's from all 46 Florida congregations and converge on the state capitol to raise our collective voices in a forceful way that homeless individuals cannot.

Planning for this caravan to Tallahassee is underway. Free home-based lodging will be offered for as many UU's as possible, volunteer drivers are being signed up and there will be a potluck dinner at the Tallahassee UU church on Tuesday evening, the 24. BUT you need to sign up NOW because available rooms will go fast. You can sign up on the website www.uulmf.org, using their form and submitting it directly online. If you need more information, contact **Terry Lanning**, the statewide coordinator for this project. 813-964-7222

Please contact Fran Davin, UUCT Social Action Committee, if you plan to go. She will provide you with a fact sheet about the homeless in Hillsborough. She will also have a list of the legislative delegation from our county so that you may make appointments in advance. Remember, Tallahassee is a VERY BUSY place during the session and you will need to schedule an appointment if you hope to get the ear of your state representative and senator.

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

THURSDAYS

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

Scheduling note: BOOK CLUB CHANGES DATE

Please note that the discussion date for the Book "Three Cups of Tea", originally scheduled for March 8 has been changed to March 15. This change has been coordinated with the book discussion leaders, Robin Leigh and Pat Busbice, to allow a Congregational Meeting to be held on March 8 to address matters relating to a Capital Campaign and the proposed building of a new multi-purpose building

March 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, March 2: 7 p.m. Social Action Committee, CUUPS: Wicca 101

Tuesday, March 3: 5:10 p.m., Youth RE, **OWL**, 5:30 p.m., Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation, 7 p.m., Worship Committee

Wednesday, March 4: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Saturday, March 7: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tibetan Buddhist Group Event

Tuesday, March 10: 2 p.m., Campfire USA, 5:10 p.m., Youth RE: OWL, 5:30pm, Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation
Youth RE: Our whole Lives

Wednesday, March 11: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pmSHAAG, Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Thursday, March 12 : 8:30 am, Walk in the Park;
5:30 p.m. Qigong
7 pm Adult RE: Building Your Own Theology II

Saturday, March 14: 9 a.m. Building and Grounds
7:30 p.m., CUUPS: Full Moon Circle

Monday March 16: 6:30 p.m., HOPE rally, 7 pm Wicca 101

Tuesday, March 17: 5:10 .p.m., Youth RE: OWL,
5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation

Wednesday, March 18: 7pm Choir Rehearsal
7pmTibetan Buddhist Meditation SHAAG

Thursday, March 19: 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park; 6:30 p.m., Qigong
7 p.m., Adult RE: Building Your Own Theology

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

Tuesday, March 24: 2 p.m., Campfire USA; 5:10 p.m., Youth RE: OWL; 5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation
pm. Small Group Ministry: Women's Spirituality

Wednesday, March 25: 7 pm Choir rehearsal, SHAAG,
Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Thursday, March 26: 8:30 a.m. Walk in the Park;
6:30 p.m., Qigong

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

Monday, March 30: 6:20 p.m., HOPE Nehemiah
Action

Tuesday, March 31: 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal, Tibetan
Buddhist Meditation

Month of Sundays at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Sunday, March 1. *Animal Wisdom.* What do pets do for people? A fresh look at our Seventh Principle noticing our interconnections with all life.

Rev. Zimmerman

--Pet Blessings will be offered following the service, in the Gazebo--

Sunday, March 8. *Celebrating Women's History Month.* The Unitarian Universalist ministers of the 19th century "Prophetic Sisterhood" in the Midwest broke new ground for our faith. Rev. Zimmerman

Sunday, March 15. *The Owl and the Eagle.* UUCT Coven of UU Pagans (CUUPS): *The Dance of Life* is a meditation from the Tslagi Nation of Native Americans, gifted to the people by the Gods to balance the male energy (the eagle) and the female energy (the owl). This service celebrates harmony, equality, and balance.

About the presenters: Circles in the Woods CUUPS is an affiliate of the National Covenant of Unitarian Universalists Pagans and a committee within UUCT.

Sunday, March 22. *Finding Your Own Truth.* Rev. Zimmerman shares the pulpit with members of the Building Your Own Theology II class who completed the class earlier this month. Some may elect to read their Credo/This I Believe statements to the congregation.

Sunday, March 29. *The Spiritual Practice of Yoga.* Origins, theory, types, and the spiritual and physical practice of yoga. Grantford Wilson, a member of our congregation will be the speaker. Grant does yoga and teaches yoga as one of his spiritual practices.

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

Domelight is a publication of:
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