



# Domelight



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

October 2008  
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

## Minister's Musings

Rev. Sara Zimmerman



### Hello Everyone,

On Sunday, November 2, we will honor all of the new members who have become members since our last New Member Sunday in 2007.

Would you like to be become a member of our church? Are you wondering about the "Pathway to Membership"? And maybe you are wondering what it means to be a member. I will explain.

**The Pathway to membership at UUCT:**  
**Here's what to do. To begin, you have three options. Choose one, two, or all three.**

#### **First Option:**

- Sign up for a UU 101 class, a series of two classes.
- The next UU 101 class dates are November 6 and 13, 7 – 9 PM.
- I teach these with "cameos" from the Board of Trustees; Katie Culbert, Director of Religious Education; the Membership Committee and others.
- You learn basic UU history and a lot about how this church works.

#### **Second Option:**

- Sign up for a Building Your Own Theology class.
- The next BYOT class dates will be February and March, tba.
- I teach these classes – usually a

series of six two-hour classes on Thursday evenings.

- You begin by reaching back into your past for your theological beliefs and note the changes.
- You learn basic vocabulary to discuss theological ideas and analyze your own ideas in relation to those.

#### **Third Option:**

- See me to make an hour-long appointment to discuss Unitarian Universalism and some of those things that we discuss in UU 101 and BYOT.

#### **In addition:**

- You "Sign the Book," the membership book, and the signing is witnessed by a member. This signing demonstrates your commitment to Unitarian Universalism and to this church.
- You make a financial pledge to the church during each of your membership. We recommend your "fair share." I will show you the form during the time of any of the above options.

Membership in our church means that you have a vote in the decision-making process that governs our church. Consider joining today!

*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 as we present a Bardic Circle November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Back in the days of yore the bards would entertain the village with stories, poems, musical performances, dances and the like. Bring something to share if you like the spotlight or just come and enjoy the entertainment. **Please bring canned goods – we'll be donating all collected canned food to a local charity.**

**Upcoming Classes:** On November 3<sup>rd</sup> Circles In The Woods CUUPS will hold a Dumb Supper following the monthly business meeting at 7pm. A Dumb Supper is a meal shared with our ancestors as a way of honoring and remembering them. There is no cost for the class; however, a love donation to UUCT is greatly appreciated. All meetings and classes are open to the public.

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## CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE CHURCH

Come join your fellow UUs, and the people who in are in town early for SWIM , the Southeastern Winter Institute in Miami, as you celebrate the Holiday Season with a dinner at the church on December 25. Ameer's will cater traditional American food, as well as Mideastern cuisine, with a good selection for vegetarians. A reception is scheduled from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.



The cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$12.00 for children 12 and under. Reservations are necessary- call Candy Gale at 813-317-7660 or email [candygale@earthlnk.net](mailto:candygale@earthlnk.net).

SWIM is a family-friendly weeklong camp of fun activities from Dec. 26-Jan. 1. This year it won't be held in Miami, but nearby in Lake Placid. For more information visit <http://www.swimuu.org>

## Musings from the Board President

This past September was the start of our Church's 2008-2009 program year. The month also saw the initial meeting of the Church's BOT members elected at the May 2008 Congregational Meeting. September's start up meeting began with the election of new BOT officers, which include: (a) **Tempie Taudte**, a past BOT President and Vice President, elected to the Vice Presidency; (b) **Bill Blymiller**, a past Vice President and Secretary, elected to continue as our Treasurer; (c) **Mary Francis**, last year's Secretary, elected to continue in that position; and (d) me, **Ed Benedict**, a past Treasurer, elected to be President.

It is an honor and pleasure for me to serve with this slate of experienced officers and the other five fellow BOT members that include: (a) our past two-time BOT President **Diana Stevens**; (b) **Kathy Hunter**; (c) **Ralph Lehman**; (d) **Russell Patterson** (past Treasurer); and (e), joining as the newest member, **Rom Delacroix**.

This BOT is serving the church during a very challenging period in our history. Our church community wants and needs new facilities to support our growing Religious Education Program. And yet, our country's economy is not looking too good. Markets are down, businesses are failing, and doom looms. Are we up for these challenging times? I think we are and hope you join me in that optimistic view. – Ed Benedict.



### Useful UU websites and news groups

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/UUTampa>

UUCT Social Justice: [uuctsocialaction-subscribe@yahoogroups](mailto:uuctsocialaction-subscribe@yahoogroups)

UUCT Worship Committee: [UUCT\\_WorshipCommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:UUCT_WorshipCommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Circles in the Woods CUUPS: [CIW\\_CUUPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:CIW_CUUPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

UUCT Green Group:

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



## Board Bytes

Mary Francis, Secretary

The October Board of Trustees meeting was business as usual with reports from the minister, the DRE for youth and children, and the treasurer. Basically, activities at the church are running fairly smoothly.

The BOT members renewed our covenant committing to working in harmony with each other and the minister.

Our annual congregational meeting to review the 2009 budget will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> following church services. Mark your calendar and plan on attending! The meeting notes from our last congregational meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, are on the web site at

[http://www.uutampa.org/pdf\\_docs/minutes\\_congregational\\_mtg\\_9\\_7\\_2008.pdf](http://www.uutampa.org/pdf_docs/minutes_congregational_mtg_9_7_2008.pdf)

Capital Campaign continues to make progress. The design committee is will complete their recommendations when the survey is completed. Remember, the status of the new building is discussed at "Conversations with the Board" held on the last Sunday of every month following service.

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.



## STOP GLOBAL WARMING

Kathi Dorman of the Green Group



Every small step we take counts when it comes to reducing our carbon footprints.

Some steps that can be taken are:

1. Take public transportation, carpool, ride a bike, or walk instead of driving.
2. Turn off computers, lights, etc. when they are not in use.
3. Run the dishwasher only when full.
4. Do full loads of laundry. Wash the clothes in cold water. Use a drying rack or clothesline rather than the dryer.
5. Take shorter showers or use less hot water in the bathtub.
6. Seal, weather-strip, and insulate your home.
7. Wrap your water heater and turn down the temperature.

The carbon footprint of our food can be reduced also.

1. Eat local and buy organic.
2. Grow your own.
3. Drink tap water.
4. Eat leftovers.
5. Eat more whole grains.
6. Eat fresh foods rather than processed foods.
7. Try to make foods sweet naturally.

Let's work together to reduce our carbon footprints and to stop global warming. Our future depends on protecting the planet. Thanks from the Green Group. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:45am in the Gazebo as we learn ways to reduce our own carbon footprint.

Thank you,  
**Susan Williams**

## UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, November 2008

If we were living in any other locale we might be able to feel the cool, crisp fall weather. Not so, Floridians, but none-the-less here's hoping your congregation is in full swing for the year. As this is being written I am preparing to go to Boston for the October UUA Trustee

meeting. In the report written by the team of the Advocacy and Witness Programs much interesting information is to be found, both nationally and internationally.



The Advocacy and Witness team is made up of the UUA staff, located in Washington, D.C., whose main responsibility is to take our UU values out into the wider world. They work to make certain UU perspectives are part of public debates on the issues of the day through media advocacy, working in partnerships with other religious and secular organizations with the same viewpoints as ours, and by empowering local congregations to be equally involved.

The mission of the Advocacy and Witness team is to support and enhance the social justice endeavors and programs of UU congregations and to assist in increasing the collective UU and interfaith voice in public policy. UU and interfaith social justice campaigns and actions are promoted through a variety of resources to the congregational social action committee members through list serves, the UUA website, workshops, meetings, and consultation. The Advocacy and Witness team supports UUA public witness positions, the Journey Toward Wholeness program, and socially responsible investing initiatives. The team develops, provides, and promotes resources that help with effective process and "how to" information, issue-

-oriented educational information, campaign and action alerts, community organization, congregational best practices information, and UUA news and updates. Also the team solicits feedback that enables them to continually gather congregational stories and news for internal and external media, improve and update resources, and strengthen social justice efforts.

Meg Riley is the Director of the Advocacy and Witness Programs and can be reached at [mriley@uua.org](mailto:mriley@uua.org). I look forward to hearing from you at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727. May each one of you enjoy the blessings of Thanksgiving and the days beyond.



## HATS OFF TO THESE TWO.....

**DR. TOM RAFFEL** who has three major scientific articles coming out in the next few weeks, in three e journals Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS), and Trends in Ecology and Evolution (TREE). He did this work in collaboration with Dr. Jason Rohr at the University of South Florida. The first article describes their research showing how and why chemicals from agricultural run-off drive patterns parasite infections in Leopard frogs, a declining species in North America. Using a combination of fieldwork and outdoor experiments in mesocosms, this study is one of the first to demonstrate a causal link between pesticides and parasitic infection in wildlife.

The second article describes their (potentially controversial) reanalysis of amphibian extinctions in South America, in which they attempt to reconcile conflicting hypotheses presented by previous authors to explain these extinctions. Though researchers have agreed that disease plays an important role in these extinctions, different groups have disagreed about the causes of

the outbreaks. Some have argued that it is due to recent spread of a novel pathogen, whereas others have maintained that the disease has become more severe in recent decades due to climate change. We show that though climate change might still have played a role, the evidence for spatial spread is stronger than the evidence for multi-decade increases in disease due to climate change.



The third article is a review of the similarities and differences between the fields of predator-prey ecology and parasite-host ecology, and is a call for a more integrated approach to these two fields. We review previous use of the parasite-as-predator analogy by parasite ecologists and suggest new ideas that can be derived from explicit use of this analogy.

Tom is a researcher in the USF Biology Department and has been a member of this church for the past year. Links to these and other articles can be found on the Rohr lab website, <http://shell.cas.usf.edu/rohrlab/rohrpublications.html>

**AND TO HARRIET BLYMILLER**, who has been awarded "The President's Award, presented by the Grant Professional Certification Institute, Inc. recognizes pathfinder Harriet Blymiller for exemplary service and outstanding abilities. October 24, 2008, Long Beach, California" This award is for work on the development and implementation of the Grant Professional Certification, with a focus on the standardized examination development.

## Meet the Building Design Committee

As our new RE building gradually becomes a reality, the work of our Building Design committee will play a vital part as liaison with the Hoffman architects. In representing us, it is the committee's job to see that our "architectural program statement", approved in a congregational meeting, is implemented as we intended.

**Diana Stevens** heads the committee. She grew up in Tampa and has been a member of UUCT since 1989. The outgoing President of the UUCT Board of Trustees, she's now starting her third year as a member of the Board. She and husband Grant Wilson live in Temple Terrace. Diana retired after 25 years as a Florida juvenile probation office and supervisor.

**Ronnie Kirchheimer**, a former New Yorker, moved to Tampa in 1998 and lives with husband Jay and son Jacob, 9, in Wellswood. The family joined UUCT late last year. Ronnie acts as a substitute elementary school teacher, as well as partners with Jay in a home-based retail packaging business.

**Rod Martin** is a long-time member of UUCT. Raised in Puerto Rico, he came to Tampa in 1981 and joined the church that year. He and wife Pam have three children; Estrella, 19; Camille, 19; and Sam, 18. They live in Seminole Heights. Rod is an operations manager at a small lab in Tampa.

**Tom Turke** and wife Faye have been UUCT members for more than a year. They live in Lutz and have four children: Thomas, Michael, Francesca and Selena.

**Join in the Journey!**

## DON'T MISS THIS...

"An Evening with Sara and Her Friends" Saturday, Nov. 8. This is a one-time only event.

The "Sara" is our minister, of course, the Rev. Zimmerman. She will be performing as Marlene Dietrich, singing the three songs that made her famous. Lotte Lenya will sing Kurt Weill hits in English and German. Peter, Paul and Mary will make an appearance. The real Faye Turke will be at the piano. And there will be a sing-along medley of the greatest songs of Richard Rodgers.

Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for "heavy" hors d'oeuvres. Beer and wine are available for a donation. Black and white attire is requested. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. Contact Barb Hammerle or Judy Lehman for tickets.



## SAVE THE DATE, DEC. 6

Our annual auction will be on Saturday Evening, December 6th.



Come at 5:30 pm to view auction items and to purchase finger foods.

The Auction will begin at 6:30 pm.

"Very Kid Friendly" (kids corner with items to purchase holiday gifts)

Donation Forms are available at church.

Building community,

Heather Pelaez [heatherpelaez@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherpelaez@hotmail.com)  
Heather Roy [stalkingcat@gmail.com](mailto:stalkingcat@gmail.com)

## 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 November 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](http://www.uutampa.org) Where you can click on events to pull up additional information for each listing.

**Monday, Nov. 3:** 5-6:30 p.m., Qigong Level 1;  
7 p.m. CUUPS meeting; 7 p.m., Social Action Committee

**Tuesday, Nov. 4:** 7 p.m., Worship Committee, Youth RE Committee

**Wednesday, Nov. 5:** 7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Worship Committee, Youth RE Committee

**Thursday, Nov. 6:** 8:30am Walk in the Park  
7pm Adult RE: Building Your Own Theology

**Saturday, Nov. 8:** 9 am. Building & Grounds, 6:30 pm, An Evening with Sara,"

**Monday, Nov. 10:** p.m., 5-6:30 Qigong Level 1  
5:30-7:30 pm, Tampa/Hillsborough County Human Rights Council

**Tuesday, Nov. 11:**  
5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation  
7-8:30 pm, Small Group Ministry: Meaningful Sharing Discussion Group

**Wednesday, Nov. 12:**

7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pm SHAAG  
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation  
**Thursday, Nov. 13 :** 8:30 am, Walk in the Park  
7pm Adult RE: UU 101

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

**Monday, Nov. 16**  
5 p.m. Qigong Level 1  
7pm Finance Committee

**Tuesday, Nov. 17:**  
5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation

**Wednesday, Nov. 18:**  
7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

**Thursday, Nov. 20:** 6pm UUCT Board Meeting

**Monday, Nov. 24:** 6:45 pm: 6:45 p.m. Small Group Ministry: Genealogy

**Tuesday, Nov. 25:**  
5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation  
7 pm. Small Group Ministry: Women's Spirituality

**Wednesday, Nov. 26:**  
7pm Choir Rehearsal  
7pm SHAAG  
7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation  
**Thursday, Nov. 27:** Happy Thanksgiving  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual vegan Thanksgiving Potluck will be held at the church, more details to follow, sponsored by Florida Voices for Animals

**Monday, Dec. 1:**  
7 pm, CUUPS meeting  
7 pm, Social Action Committee

**Tuesday, Dec. 2:**  
5:30pm Lifespan RE: Zen Meditation  
7 pm Worship Committee  
7 pm, Youth RE Committee

**Wednesday, Dec. 3:** 7pm Choir Rehearsal

7pm Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

## 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.

### November 2: *Building Your Own Theology*

Students who recently completed the "BYOT" course will present their credos and Rev. Zimmerman will offer a perspective on the course and on the Unitarian Universalist tradition of "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; and A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." (The third and fourth Principles of Unitarian Universalism.) We will also honor New Members.

### November 9: *The Morning After*

On this morning after her fund-raising concert, Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on the presidential election, and on other timely topics in the irreverent style of Molly Ivans, whom she will do her best to channel.

### November 16: *The Zen Poetry of Gary Snyder*

Rev. Zimmerman will reflect on the work of this west-coast poet and Zen Master whose work includes images from Native American story-telling, coyotes, Tibetan deities, and family life. Special music during this service by a nationally famous duo: Tom Griesgraber and Bert Lams. They will present a concert later this day.

### November 23: *Guest At Your Table*

Rev. Zimmerman, Fran Davin and the Social Action Committee, and Katie Culbert, DRE for Children and Youth will collaborate to offer this season's UU Service Committee service.

### November 30: *Coven of Unitarian Universalist Pagans*

Ollis Hughes and the UUCT CUUPS will offer a ritual in this UU service.

***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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