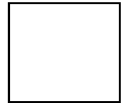


Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Sarasota  
3975 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34232



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA**  
**3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232 — (941) 371-4974**



**Fax:** (941) 377-4897 • **E-mail:** [uusara@gte.net](mailto:uusara@gte.net) • **Web site:** [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.**

January 24, 2010 — No. 2010-1  
For February 2010

*Rev. Margret A. O'Neill, Interim Minister*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Minister's Office Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday*

*Church Office Calling Hours: 10-2 Tuesday thru Friday  
9-12 on Sunday*

*Robert Lischetti, Music Director  
Jan Dorsett, Pianist*

*Virginia Griesé, Religious Education Director  
Sandy Theiss, Office Administrator & Bookkeeper  
Katherine Isabelle, Custodian*

*Contact Editors:  
Gail Colella, Jane Grundy, George Milburn  
Contact E-Mail: [slightlymad1@verizon.net](mailto:slightlymad1@verizon.net)*

<i>President:</i>	<i>Rick Sandler</i>	<i>412-0906</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Muriel Redifer</i>	<i>926-4138</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Barbara DeMaio</i>	<i>371-8118</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Dee Widder</i>	<i>377-9028</i>
<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Joanne Curtis</i>	<i>929-0578</i>
	<i>Catherine Cyrus</i>	<i>359-9511</i>
	<i>Dana Keller</i>	<i>377-9815</i>
	<i>Pat Liebert</i>	<i>379-0317</i>
	<i>Sue Moreland</i>	<i>362-9497</i>
	<i>Sara Slate</i>	<i>487-7086</i>

**WE COVENANT:**

- To actively live the Unitarian Universalist principles;
- To welcome and nurture diversity of belief and openness of religious expression without dogma;
- To create a caring atmosphere;
- To provide a person-centered, moral and ethical education for children and adults.

**OUR MISSION IS:**

- To provide and perpetuate the principles of Unitarian Universalism;
- To provide the motivation and means to serve the wider community.
- To promote justice, tolerance and compassion in ourselves, among ourselves and in the wider community.

IN THE PULPIT

February 7 – 10:30 am ***Enlightened Self-Interest*** – Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

Every year, churches all across the nation ask their friends and members to make a pledge of financial support. Although many worthy causes need our money, it is in our own best interest, and in the best interest of society, to support strong liberal churches that take a stand for human dignity and justice.

February 14 – 10:30 am ***Love: The Final Frontier*** -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

What is love, really? Is it the romantic attachment between two people, the caring work of a teacher, the hands building a Habitat house, or the self-sacrifice of a Mother Theresa – all, some, or none of the above? On this day of hearts and flowers, let’s explore what love really means in our lives, and how we can live it more fully.

February 21 – 10:30 am ***Be Fruitful*** – Dr. Lea Hall

How can we be fruitful and moral in these times? One path is to develop a permaculture, redesigning our lives using nature as a guide. As we invent a delightful new frugality, we can create more while we consume less. Some of us may (re)discover the dogma of dogs, the faithfulness of fowl, and the gifts of goats.

February 28 – 10:30 am ***Being Human*** -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

There is so much social and cultural variation around the world, so many ways to be human. In the light of that abundant variety, what judgments can we make about human nature and human rights? What is our responsibility to support a world in which every person can live into their full human potential?

Nominating Committee Report to the Congregation

UUCS Bylaws stipulate that a Nominating Committee must be formed in order to nominate a slate of Officers and Trustees for presentation to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. The committee is to be made up of three retiring board members and four members elected by the congregation at the annual meeting (all serve for one year). The committee members were selected last March, and the committee has spent the last few months working hard to assemble a slate of officers and board members to lead us in these challenging times. Committee members **Catherine Dente, Chair; Gail Colella; Louise King; Roy Ingham; Marie Keeney; Paul Lewis;** and **Mary Lou Keller** are proud to present the following slate of officers for the 2010-2011 church year for consideration by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting:

**Officers of the Board:**

One-year term, 2010 April – 2011 March

- \* President: **Rick Sandler**
- \* Vice President: **Sue Moreland**
- \* Treasurer: **Barbara DeMaio**
- \* Secretary: **Barbara Silvera**

**Board Members (Trustees):**

- \* **Dana Keller** (2010 - 2012)
- \* **Pat Liebert** (2010-2012)
- \* **Sara Slate** (2010 - 2012)
- Joanne Curtis** (2009 - 2011)
- Cathy Cyrus** (2009 - 2011)
- Muriel Redifer** (2009 - 2011)

**Nominating Committee for 2010-2011:**

- \* **June Bragalla**
- \* **Tom Cook**
- \* **Jeanie Craig**
- \* **Susan Hallock**
- \* **Paul Lewis**
- \* **Nancy Thomas**
- Dee Widder** (the only retiring Board Member)

\* positions requiring a congregation vote at the Annual Meeting on March 28th

**Important Notice**

***Nominations may also be made by petition. To be nominated in this manner, a Member must present a petition, signed by at least ten (10) Members, to the Nominating Committee. Consent in writing of such nominees must be obtained before their name is submitted. Because of deadlines specified in the UUCS Bylaws, the petitions must be presented to the Nominating Committee no later than February 18th so the names can be published in the church newsletter’s February edition.***



*Margret's Musings*

*Caution: Alligator in Area.* That sign appeared recently (with a drawing of an alligator in case the message was not clear) in the park where I walk on these lovely Sarasota mornings. It quite literally stopped me in my tracks. Here was new information – but what did it mean? What action was I expected to take? Stand still? Walk faster? Prepare to make a new friend?

Sometimes it is important to pay attention, and figure out what to do with new information.

During the interim time, that action-packed interval between settled ministers, lots of new information emerges. We experience new perspectives, new relationships, perhaps new conflicts and new resolutions, new possibilities. We may go down new paths, or try some old ones again, hoping they will work even better than they have before. This is a time to dig deeper, reach farther, and take some risks, using all that new information to prepare to enter a new partnership between the congregation and its minister.

“New” information about the past emerged in the church history project we did together in November: This church continues to be influenced by its heritage as part of the Unitarian Fellowship movement, and by the emergence of Religious Humanism within our faith movement. Our Unitarian forebears expanded the boundaries of religious community to include atheism and agnosticism, enriching our diverse ranks with ever new opportunities to learn from each other as we each explore what is most true for us.

The leadership is coming into new understandings of the organizational dynamics of the church, looking carefully at governance, staffing, and the complex partnerships among the minister, staff, and congregation. A new staffing plan has been designed and adopted by the Board of Trustees, with the goal of strengthening the capacity to serve our members and to build the vitality and presence of this wonderful church in the community.

There is so much good news these days. UUCS received an award at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast for our continued involvement in Newtown, especially our work with children. The kickoff of the Chalice Groups program has brought new energy, and the promise of even richer relationships among our members and friends. Freethinkers, LEAP and the Forum provide intellectual stimulation and challenge. Our teens are learning about our neighboring faiths. There is something going on here nearly all the time, and we have new potential members visiting the church every Sunday. The positive energy is strong.

As we enter this season of recommitting ourselves to the financial well-being of the church, this is a time to use our new information well, and to remember all the benefits to ourselves and to the community of a strong Unitarian Universalist presence in Sarasota. We bring to the world our affirmation of the worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; acceptance and encouragement of our spiritual growth as we search for truth and meaning. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota truly is a place we can live what we believe, and bring our faithful presence into the world. May it continue strong.

It is good to be with you. See you at church!

In faith and love,

*Margret*

**FLOWERS**



If you wish to donate flowers on a Sunday morning to honor someone special in your life or celebrate a joyous occasion, please sign up on the form on the kiosk and call **Nancy Sciore** at 922-0243 so the flowers can be ordered.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**New Office Calling hours:**

**The office is now open on Sundays from 9 am till 12 pm**

**Closed Monday and Saturday**

**Open Tuesday thru Friday 10 am till 2 pm**



## Religious Education

By **Ginny Griesé**, RE Director

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday season. Now that we are all entering a new year the teachers and students in our religious education program are looking forward to an interesting and active year at UUCS.

The sign-up for our annual Secret Friends celebration has already begun. For those of you who may not be familiar with this event, let me give you a short explanation. Every year around Valentine's Day we ask for volunteers from the adult congregation to bring in a small gift for one of our students. The adults as well as the parents will be informed of the identity of the child and of the volunteer respectively. The child, however, is surprised on Secret Friend Sunday. On that day (which this year falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>) everyone (parents, child, adult volunteer) will meet, go into the Jefferson Room to share potluck and a gift and hopefully have fun. It is a good way for the generations to come together. I hope that you will participate. Forms for our adult volunteers will be in the order of service or you may see me and I will have them for you.

Our students study and explore many concepts during the time they spend in our classrooms. I would like to focus on one age group to give everyone who is not involved in religious education (but hopefully reads this article) a better idea of the curriculum and what the students are learning.

The second through fourth grade class will be going on a visit to the Bishop Planetarium on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The topic will be the "Secret of the Cardboard Rocket" followed by "Live Star Talk." In the classroom they will be studying "Science-Comets and Constellations." This ties in nicely with our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle. "We covenant to affirm and promote: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We wish to guide our children to search for what is true and to use reason and science to help them.

**Birthdays:** Ben Mohr 2/10/97 Samuel Brasgalla 2/19/03

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Rick Sandler



We are fast approaching the end of a very successful fiscal year, with a number of significant accomplishments. Still remaining on our calendar are several items for us to remember.

We'll be kicking off our stewardship drive with our annual pledge dinner on **February 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please purchase your tickets for this always-wonderful event. **Jeanie Craig** and **Lura Bradberry** (and many, many others) are working hard to provide all of us with a terrific program. We'll have music by Booker High School students and an excellent dinner. We'll also be discussing our plans for next year, with some emphasis on our goals and objectives as we look forward to a very busy year

We also have a large number of positions to fill. The Nominating Committee is putting together its slate of officers for the Board of Trustees (see accompanying article). In addition to this task, at our annual meeting on **March 28**, we will also present the slates for the Ministerial Search Committee, for the Endowment Board, and for the Nominating Committee itself. You'll be getting more information about all of these in future mailings. I hope as many of you as possible will attend this very important meeting.

At the annual meeting, we'll also be presenting the proposed **FY 2010 budget**. By then, we should have our pledge information in hand and will have reconciled pledge data with our recommended budget. All of us realize that these are difficult economic times for many. The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees have been working hard to develop a working budget that is realistic, but that will put us in a good position to attract the next settled minister. Ministers looking for a position are obviously interested in joining churches that are stable, well-run, well staffed, and have a strong sense of where they want to go.

Other good news: We've increased our membership this year. We've broken the 300 mark, thanks to the hard work of the Membership Committee and two excellent Discovering UU programs, ably led by **Rev. Margret**.

Another positive development has been Rev. Margret's introduction of Chalice Groups. We currently have five groups fully subscribed for the first 8-week session, and the committee is working on developing a group specifically for young adults. This promises to be a very popular new program that will build on what were formerly called "small groups." If you are interested in this concept but haven't subscribed for the first round, I'm sure there will be other opportunities in the future.

And finally, many of our accomplishments this year could not have happened without our devoted staff. **Sandy Theiss** and **Katherine Isabelle** are always willing to go the extra distance to do all of the things required to keep the church running smoothly. **Ginny Griesé** has worked with Rev. Margret to enhance the RE program. **Robert Lischetti** and the choir are doing an outstanding job. **Jan Dorsett** always provides inspiring music. This church is a special place, and our staff has a great deal to do with making sure things get done.

So as you can see, we're gearing up for a busy end of the fiscal year. I look forward to seeing you in church.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**The Power of Commitment and Education**  
**Our Church receives an Award at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast!**

This week our church received an MLK Service Award for our commitment to the children and youth in the Newtown community. This award represents many years and volunteer hours of church members standing up for desegregation of schools, working at the Helen Payne Day Nursery, marching in the MLK celebration parade, attending the MLK breakfast, speaking at City Commission hearings about redevelopment in Newtown, working to change conditions in our Public Housing system, and many other initiatives....but really I think it is a recognition that our church has made a commitment to be a reliable ally in the drive for equal rights for all persons, especially those in our community who have been denied them, and we are trusted. What a great feeling that is! February is officially Black History month, and I'd like to encourage everyone at church to take this to heart, and learn something about Black History; channeling Julie's former role as a Director of Religious Education, we have an assignment for you: learn our local history with respect to race relations, learn something new about U.S. history and race, and learn something personal—read a story about an individual who lived it. Then let's start the conversation!

**Let's start with local history:** This is the description provided on the Sarasota government website of the neighborhood we call Newtown: "Newtown is the second historic core of Sarasota's African-American community. From the initial development in 1914, Newtown has experienced and witnessed the turn of many life-changing events for decades. From the early years of segregation to the fight for equality, our community is committed to transforming the past struggle into a prosperous future, lost dreams into renewed hope, broken families into mended relationships and saddened hearts into joyful spirits." (<http://www.sarasotagov.com/Newtown/index.html>)

What seems to be glossed over here on the website is how the area was developed and created, let's learn more; surely it was primarily created through housing segregation, and then note the word "second" in the sentence above – that probably means the original area got too valuable from a development standpoint and people were somehow made to move to a new area. If someone at the church knows this history, we would love to hear about it, and maybe we could even record it on a new website developed by some local high school students, [www.historyheard.com](http://www.historyheard.com), a site where oral history is being recorded for use by students and academics. Here's a link to local history about the attempted integration of Sarasota "public" beaches in the 1950's: <http://www.sarasotamagazine.com/Articles/Sarasota-Magazine/2005/06/A-Beach-Too-Far.asp>.

**U.S. history of race relations:** The history our students are being taught now in school is so much more complete and accurate than what we were taught; although more progress can be made, many more primary resources are used, and multicultural experiences are included. We can thank Dr. John Hope Franklin, and historians like him for pushing for this accuracy in our history textbooks. Dr. Franklin died last year, but left a legacy which will enrich us all. He was a civil rights leader all his life, professor at University of Chicago, and Duke University, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His autobiography, *Mirror to America*, is compelling reading from his days as a newly minted P.H.D. from Harvard when no "white" university would hire him as permanent faculty, and he struggled to access research resources from "white" libraries, to his preparation with Thurgood Marshall for *Brown v. Board of Education*. I recommend it. You can also read or listen to *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by Professor James W. Loewen – it will open your eyes!

**An individual's story:** There are many to choose from, including Dr. Franklin's noted above; but the most compelling I've read this year is Melba Beals' autobiography, *Warriors Don't Cry*. Ms. Beals was one of the Little Rock Nine who voluntarily desegregated Little Rock Central High in 1957. Although usually catalogued as juvenile nonfiction, this story is compelling reading for adults, and could be disturbing for young children as it chronicles the ugly face of hatred during the desegregation era, and how determined these young people were, and how these experiences scarred them and strengthened them their whole lives. (Local note: Sarasota schools weren't integrated until 1962 after a lawsuit by the NAACP.)

Education is the enemy of ignorance and bigotry, and the Social Justice Committee will be hosting some educational events this Spring: showing the movie *Broadcast Blues* (threats posed by consolidation of the media), bringing a guest speaker about homelessness from the Suncoast Coalition to End Homelessness, and other events.

See you in church,

**Julie Leach and Susan Hallock**, Co-Chairs, Social Justice Committee



### From The Garden Gate

Dr. Dick, the self-proclaimed “garden doc” who thinks he knows much but knows little, was fast asleep on a cold night in mid January. He slept soundly; his conscience was clear, and he had exercised properly and eaten wisely. He was at peace. But his “sleep of the good and the just” was soon to be interrupted. The persistent sound of “beep, beep, beep” slowly penetrated his sleep fogged brain and Dr. Dick awakened, wondering if he had been dreaming. But there it was again “beep, beep, beep” – it was no dream. Shaking off the last remnants of his peaceful slumber, Dr. Dick sprang from the bed to see what was the matter (a little phraseology left over from the Christmas season!). He checked the fire and smoke alarms and found that no sounds were being emitted - nor was the doorbell ringing or the microwave beeping. Into the study he went and lo and behold there was the little wireless thermometer sounding a continuing “beep, beep, beep”, warning him that the outdoor temperature had reached 36 degrees. “Well, I’ll turn the darn thing off,” he said to himself. There was no switch. In desperation, he put the wireless thermometer under a pillow and went back to bed. Alas he could still hear the little thermometer, “beep, beep, beep”. He put the pillow over his head. No luck, “beep, beep, beep”. (the Telltale Heart??). “I’ll throw the \$#^@ thing out the window,” he said to himself. Diane awakened and saw Dr. Dick with thermometer in hand and inquired as to the reason of his agitation. “Give me the thing,” she said, and took it, pulled out the battery and went back to sleep. “Oh,” said Dr. Dick.

And so with a simple “beep, beep, beep” Dr. Dick began his winter week of disheartening and devastating discontent and desolation. Each night became progressively colder. Dr. Dick even assembled a team (Katherine and Diane) and under his guidance his most precious church plants were covered. And yet the nights kept getting colder with the temperature plunging to 26 degrees several nights in a row. Finally, the cold air subsided and the warm air took over leaving a devastated Dr. Dick surveying his bleak landscape. “This is awful,” he said. “Even some of the shrubbery that we covered has been frost killed. What am I to do?”

“Do nothing,” responded Diane.

“Say what?”

“This is Florida. The best advice is to leave everything alone for several weeks, and then prune the dead branches. The plants will come back.”

“But the congregation – what will they think of me when they see our brown and boring landscape.”

“Oh I don’t think they’ll change their opinion of you,” said Diane, with just the hint of a smile.

*Dick Happy*

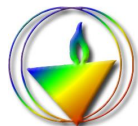
#### Action Items of Board of Trustees Meeting

January 19th - **Dee Widder**, Secretary

- Approved Congregational sponsorship of **Brock Leach** as he pursues his Ministry
- **Rev. Margret** reported that a new telephone system is being installed
- Adopted Staff Task Force recommendations
- Approved 2010-11 Fiscal Year budget as presented by **Dick Happy** which was presented to Congregation on January 24th
- Budget recommends 3% salary increase for staff



**INTERWEAVE**



**Celebrating our Diversity**

**NEWS FROM INTERWEAVE**

Interweave Sarasota is part of a nationwide group of straight and gay people who are celebrating their diversity and campaigning to foster understanding and bringing a halt to hate crimes and prejudice.

It is our agreement to continue to explore diverse issues. It's about extending our efforts beyond just GLBT issues toward consciously becoming inclusive and welcoming of all diversity.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm and enjoy a potluck at the home of one of our members and often have a guest speaker.

**Wilda Meier** hosted the Interweave Potluck/Meeting for January. Our host for February 21<sup>st</sup> will be **Sue Moreland**. All members and friends are cordially invited to all Interweave Events.

Interweave Sarasota showed the movie "The Redwoods" to a sizeable audience in January. February will feature the film "Stonewall" Wednesday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. This fast paced movie weaves historical fact and fiction to create an insiders view of the world of the Stonewall Inn leading up to the riots.

Interweave now has three members on the GAIN roster (**Ron Brown, Logan Nicholson and Gail Colella**) and our Interim Minister, **Margret O'Neall** represents our church on the board. GAIN is planning a Spring Event to be held at the First Congregational UCC Church in May. We are helping with the planning of this event and will be a part of the program.

**Ron Brown, Chair**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE**  
**HONORS SUE SHERMAN**

During the church service on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, **Sue Sherman** was recognized by Jeffrey Harper, Maxine Neil, and Lauralyn Smith of the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** as Outstanding Local Representative for 2009. Sue was selected after review of nearly 600 national volunteers. In his nomination, Jeff Harper, the UUSC Regional Coordinator, said, "Sue Sherman has served as the Local Representative for the Sarasota church for many years. Through the years, she has maintained her dedication and enthusiasm for the mission of the UUSC. Sue does everything an outstanding local representative is expected to do, and she does it with dedication, enthusiasm and humility."



Sue is a rare two-time recipient of this award. She won it for the first time in 2001. We at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota extend our congratulations and thanks to Sue. She is to be commended for her exemplary efforts to advance human rights and social justice in the world.

**CARING COMMITTEE**



Do you have a Caring need such as a ride to the doctor, to church or want a buddy? Call **Dee Widder** at 377-9028 with your request. Also, if you'd like to be on the Caring email list to learn of Milestones, email me at [WidderD@verizon.net](mailto:WidderD@verizon.net)

Have you filled out your Memorial Form? Find it online at our website.

Read the Kiosk for the latest in Caring resources available in Sarasota.

**Earth Evangelists: Communities on the Edge**



Alistair McIntosh writes, "Community depends on our connection between nature (soil) ... the divine (soul), and ... each other (society). As matters stand, these connections are damaged, so community regeneration needs to create the conditions whereby we can reconnect with these three inter-weaving strands." -- Rekindling Community

Recently I visited the frozen acreage in Wisconsin. Geologically it lies on the edge of the glaciated north. Physically the farm lies on the edge of utility and cell phone services. Economically it lies between agribusiness and subsistence farming. Technologically it lies between modernity and the postmodern future that will cope with peak oil and climate change. Socially it rests on the edge of a community of small farmers, homesteaders, market gardeners, self reliance seekers, and on the far southeastern edge of a UU community.

Out to the snowy countryside I went in a borrowed car with borrowed snowshoes and mittens to visit my dear neighbors and check on my place. Fool that I was, I carried an insufficient amount of the wrong kind of water to top off my solar batteries, and then I fumbled two of the 24 battery caps down into the recesses of the insulated battery box, where we couldn't reach them. It was a 6-handed job to hold the flashlight and water the hard-to-access batteries with very cold hands, but my friends saved the day. (Let no one doubt the existence of UU angels. We find them perched on progressive edges.)

Permaculture says to optimize edges of all kinds. Aren't we UU communities a point at which various "ecosystems" meet? Do we not celebrate marginality in our programs for peace, justice, and spiritual growth?

We earthlings are approaching various edges, beyond which there be dragons and doom. Or not, depending.

For the Green Team,  
**Lea Hall**



**Ladies Potluck Luncheon**  
**Saturday, March 20 at noon, Jefferson Room...put it on your calendar!**



**Calling All Cooks**

Robin Rosen has once again agreed to offer a special cooking class just for UUs on Monday, February 15th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Whole Foods Market. For just \$5 per person we will learn to prepare and then enjoy eating a delicious meal of easy-to-make, healthful, Indian cuisine. Call **Judy Hoerr** at 359-2846 to make a reservation, or e-mail her at [ejhoerr@aol.com](mailto:ejhoerr@aol.com).



**UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY**



**New email for:**

**Ruth & Art Haas**  
[haas369@yahoo.com](mailto:haas369@yahoo.com)

**Verna Safran**  
[vernafran4@gmail.com](mailto:vernafran4@gmail.com)

**Beth Hollingsworth**  
[btholli@att.net](mailto:btholli@att.net)

**Virginia Corcoran**  
[vbrc@comcast.net](mailto:vbrc@comcast.net)

**Anne Balekdjian**  
[Balek@comcast.net](mailto:Balek@comcast.net)

**New address for:**

**Harlene Henderson**  
4275 Reflections Pkwy.  
Sarasota FL 34233  
371-2039

**New phone number for:**

**Bob Meredith**  
552-5337



**Imagine  
all the people  
living life in peace.**

- John Lennon

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

The spring meeting of the SW Florida Cluster of UU Congregations will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at the UU Church of Sarasota. The topic is "Focus on Youth" with Jennifer Dant, Director of Religious Education at the UU Congregation of Greater Naples as our facilitator.

Registration is at 9:15 AM with the program ending at 2:30 PM. Registration fee is \$15 and covers morning coffee and lunch. Please sign up with Lura Bradberry, Joanne Curtis or Ruth Sheridan by February 28th.

The SW Cluster consists of the six churches on the SW coast of Florida: Manatee, our church, Venice, Port Charlotte, Fort Myers, and Naples. Our Florida congregations share a common need to grow and strengthen our RE programs. This is a great opportunity to meet together and learn how to do this vital work.

<b>Lura Bradberry</b>	366-3713
<b>Joanne Curtis</b>	929-0578
<b>Ruth Sheridan</b>	921-9880



"Peace is our gift to each other."

- Elie Wiesel

Unitarian Universalist Association 

FEBRUARY FORUMS

Feb. 7: **John Foster**, Moderator; Keith Fitzgerald, Speaker (if the state legislature is not in session): "What Did Civics Classes Not Teach Us?" A state representative reflects on the Florida Legislature.

Feb. 14: **Lea Hall**, Moderator; Laurel Schiller, Presenter: "Give Peace Some Plants" What do peace and plants have to do with one another? Come hear Laurel Schiller, conservation biologist, co-owner of Florida Native Plants, and former Sarasota County Planning Commissioner, show the connections between peace and plants. Each person who attends this forum will receive a gift plant from Laurel's nursery.

Feb. 21: **Marie Keeney**, Moderator and Co-Presenter; **Monty Hayes**, Co-Presenter. "Whither American Newspapers" Exploring the decline of this great American institution and possible future directions. Monty Hayes is a retired AP bureau chief with a long career in the news business.

Feb. 28: **Leroy Sims**, Moderator and Presenter: "What Has Been the Effect on the Community of Obama's First Year?" Has Obama lived up to the expectations of voters in the first year of his presidency? What has been accomplished? Has the local community felt any beneficial effects from the Obama program?



Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it.  
 Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.  
 Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK**

**Sunday, February 14th, After the Service**

Please bring a dish to share with six to eight people. We like to encourage our visitors to stay and get acquainted with us, therefore we do need all the food that everyone brings. So, if you plan to stay for pot luck, **please bring a dish!** Hope you will **ALL** come out to the February Second Sunday Pot luck.

*Tom Cook*

**Happy February Birthday to:**

- Greg Hite 3
- Boris Pundick 3
- Phyllis Wynne 3
- Gayle Van Peenen 4
- Ginny Griesè 5
- Karen Rush 9
- Hawk Holmes 10
- David Ohlson 11
- Carol Turner 11
- Cathy Cyrus 13
- Joan Sarney 15
- El Parent 16
- Joan Fletcher 17
- Ted Hoffman 18
- Ruth Haas 20
- Marci Saunders 20
- George Gannett 22
- Sara Slate 22
- Bernie Gray 23
- Mary Ann Thrush 24
- Isabel Oake 25
- Charlie Peirce 26
- Laurel Peterman 26
- Tom Cook 28



**Happy February Anniversary to:**

- ML & Ray Morton 2
- Alice & Maurice Boudreau 9
- Gail & Richard Czina 11
- Roberta & Dominic Martia 13
- Lea Hall & Klaus Obermeit 14
- Joan & Peter Bennett 22
- Mary & Ted Hoffman 22



**MAC USERS GROUP**

The MacIntosh Computer support group meets once a month at the church. All Mac users are welcome. Call **June Braggalla** for more information. 379-6071.

**TRIBUTE FUND**  
Esther Martin



Many thanks to **Jim Raudabaugh** for transportation to the airport, from **Nancy Lyon**.

To honor the memory of **George Balekdjian** for his fine contributions to the church, both collectively and individually, from **Jean J. Wolfe**.

Thanks to **Klaus Obermeit** for his heavy lifting help as I recycled boxes of books to local libraries, from **Pat Liebert**.

Thanks to **Dorothy Conlon** and **Esther Martin** for all the T L C. From **KC**.

*The Tribute Fund is a great way to honor someone or give thanks or just celebrate a special event. Call Esther at 923-2177 or pick up a form in the church office or on the kiosk.*

**THE NEXT CONTACT DEADLINE IS Thursday, February 18th at 12 noon.**



**Please e-mail your articles to: slightlymad1@verizon.net or mail to Gail Colella  
THANK YOU!**

**Whenever you have truth, it must be given**

**with love, or the message and the**

**messenger will be rejected.**

- Mahatma Gandhi

Words of Caution About Giving Info to Census Workers  
From the Better Business Bureau

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is underway as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - *how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist?* BBB offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

**REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.**

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is **NOT** with the Census Bureau.

AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION. No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau. Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)  
**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

*Ed. Note: Lucille Wallace brought this my attention. It is something of which we should all be aware. Thanks to Lucille!*

