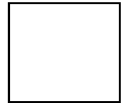


Unitarian Universalist
Church of Sarasota
3975 Fruitville Road



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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



CONTACT



Fax: (941) 377-4897 • E-mail: uusara@gte.net • Web site: www.uusarasota.org

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.

February 21, 2010 — No. 2010-2
For March 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*

<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>
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	<i>Sue Moreland</i>	<i>362-9497</i>
	<i>Sara Slate</i>	<i>487-7086</i>

*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*

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

March 7 – 10:30 am - *Women in the World* – Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

International Women’s Day and the UN Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace celebrate women’s achievements throughout history and across nations. The work is not finished; women still lack equal status in many parts of the world. Today is the Pancake Brunch fundraiser for the UUSC Barakat project for women’s education in Afghanistan.

March 14 – 10:30 am *Democracy in Diversity* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

Decision-making in a community is simple if everyone thinks the same way, likes the same things. But what about when there are differences, strongly held opinions – should the majority rule? How do we honor the rights of the minority? Who gets veto power? How do we live together in peace when there are difficult decisions to be made?

March 21 – 10:30 am *Susan B. Anthony: Women’s Progress* – Barbara Rowe

Dubbed "The Napoleon of the Women's rights movement," Susan B. Anthony devoted her life to making men and women equal before the law. At her death in 1906, only four states had granted women the franchise. Even so, her parting words to her fellow suffragists were: "Failure is impossible." Host: **Verna Safran**

March 28 – 10:30 am *Saving and Savoring the World* -- Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

E.B White wrote, "If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy; if the world were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I wake up each morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. This makes it very hard to plan the day." How do we plan our days to save and savor the world?



Religious Education by Ginny Griesé, RE Director

This has been a very busy school year for our oldest students. “Our Neighboring Faiths” curriculum has taken our UUCS teen students on a very interesting and educational journey. They have experienced a Buddhist meditation, a Jewish service and most recently visited a Mennonite Church. Discussions guided by their teachers help them gain a better understanding of the belief systems of other faiths. It has also led them to become more aware of our Unitarian Universalist’s principles and sources.

Principles: The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Source: Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

The religious education students, teachers and families with help from the social justice committee are planning a pancake breakfast in March. (please check the order of service for the date and time) All proceeds from this breakfast will go to Barakat. Barakat is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the well-being of marginalized groups in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan by increasing access to education and a healthy environment. UUCS is focusing on their efforts in Afghanistan. Please come, enjoy some good food and help those in need at the same time. Hope to see you all there.

Birthdays:

Nathan Bennett	3/14/08	Autumn Bonner	3/17/09	Grace Jemison	3/14/00
Emory Bonner	3/10/96	Cal Davidson Turner	3/13/97	Charles Henderson	3/16/96



Margret's Musings

"We affirm our fifth principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

One of the joys and challenges of congregational life is finding the balance in democratic process. We Unitarian Universalists are people of strong opinions, and sometimes we take our preferences very seriously. That is very important to our values of truth-seeking, spiritual growth and the worth and dignity of every person. Every person's truth and every member's voice is important in the church. We stand united in our commitment to democratic process.

At the same time, our opinions and preferences can divide us, if we too often place our own preferences ahead of the interests of the community of which we are a part. Sometimes we can fall into thinking that our preferences should be universal rules, and everything in our church should be just the way we want it to be. That preference might be about the language we use, the music we hear or sing, the arrangements of the space and decorations that are used. I understand that religion is a very intimate experience, and that something that violates our preferences can feel like a violation of that experience. But I also understand that the preferences fall along a wide range of diversity, and that in order to live in community we must find the proper balance in engaging with a wide range of preferences.

As I write this, we have just learned of Indiana Senator Evan Bayh's decision to leave the Senate. Bayh feels there is "There is too much partisanship and not enough progress – too much narrow ideology and not enough practical problem-solving" in the debates and decisions of Congress. A church can fall into the same debates of narrow preference, at the expense of our larger well-being and diversity.

In the next few weeks we are going to engage the democratic process here at UUUCS. We have been offered the donation of a small pipe organ, which was built by organ aficionado and church member Charlie Allman, and which has been described by our keyboard artist Jan Dorsett as having a "lovely Baroque sound." We know that people have many preferences about organs, organs in churches, and organ music.

Rather than assuming what "the church" wants based on hearing from a few voices pro and con, we will place the organ in the sanctuary for a trial period. It will not replace the piano, but rather will augment our musical range. The organ will be played in a variety of ways, including solos, with other instruments, and accompanying the choir and congregational singing. At the end of the trial period, congregants will have a chance to express their individual preferences, and we will have a better sense of the collective preference. The Board of Trustees will then make the final decision, since ours is a representative democracy, and you have entrusted them with the complex task of leadership and decision-making on behalf of our diverse membership.

Welcome to democracy in action! 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.

SUNDAY PARKING

Congrats to the winners of the Sunday Auction Parking spaces. Please be kind and observe the sign posted. If you didn't win the Sunday parking space, please leave it free for the bidder who did.

Sunday Visitor parking spaces should also be left free for first time visitors. We want to make it easier for a visitor to get to church. If a visitor can't find a parking space, he might choose to drive away.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER by Rick Sandler



We are rapidly approaching the end of our fiscal year. There are many important meetings coming up and many topics on our agenda. I'd like to remind you of some key dates and encourage all of you to get involved in the decision-making about the future of this church.

We have a very important Endowment Board meeting scheduled for February 28, immediately after the church service. All of you should have received a detailed letter explaining our recommended changes to the Endowment bylaws. While some of this material is complicated, the reason for the recommended changes is that we need to update certain amendments to ensure effective procedures. We need a quorum for this meeting, so please plan to attend.

On March 28, we will hold our annual church meeting. Again, this is a very important meeting. In addition to reviewing our FY 2010 budget, we will also elect officers for: the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee, the Endowment Board, and the Ministerial Search Committee. So that no one is hungry during this meeting, we will be providing a brown bag lunch.

All of you should have received your pledge cards in the mail. As you know, we are asking for everyone to consider how they wish to support this congregation as we continue to evolve. We have an aging physical complex that requires a lot of upkeep. We have a need for additional staff so that we can deliver quality programming and so that we can attract a highly qualified settled minister. Please consider how you can contribute. And it's not all about money; we often talk about time, treasure and talent. If you can give of any (or all) of these, please think about what you receive from this church and what you can give back.

I want to thank the wonderful Serendipity Auction team that worked so hard to produce a very successful event. We raised over \$20,000, a big plus for this year's budget. Marie Keeney and Shirley Foss, this year's co-chairs (plus many, many others) did an outstanding job.

Our pledge dinner was the kick-off for our stewardship drive. 200 people attended the dinner which was, by all accounts, a great evening. Thanks go to Jeanie Craig and Sue Moreland (co-chairs) of the event. The dinner committee consisted of Lura Bradberry, Rhoda Villanueva, and many others. Over 70 people volunteered their skills to make this a fun evening.

Finally, I have to end this column on a somewhat sad note. Our Office Administrator, Sandy Theiss, has resigned her position. Sandy has been with the church for six years. We will all miss Sandy; it's hard to imagine how we will get along without her. But we are actively working on a plan to staff the church and will apprise you of next steps. I will miss Sandy very much and wish her much success as she moves on to other opportunities.

As I come to the end of my term as President, I can tell you that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. Together, we have accomplished much. We now have 315 members. There's a feeling of energy and enthusiasm in the air. Our next challenge will be to find a settled minister for 2011. I believe we will be in strong shape for that endeavor.

Rick



New address for:

Henny & Mac McDowell
3837 Glen Oaks Manor Drive
Sarasota FL 34232-1033

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



New e-mail for:

Sorina Jansen - sorjansen1@hotmail.com

Nancy & Dean Reger - dnreger@gmail.com

PROPOSED STUDY/ACTION ISSUES

PROPOSED STUDY/ACTION Issues - Each year, our denomination selects a topic for congregational study and action; this year we have been studying Ethical Eating and the prior year's topic was Peacemaking. As part of the Study/Action process, congregations are asked to have sermons, classes and discussion groups around the selected topic, many reference materials are provided to encourage engagement. Congregations then submit comments about the issue to the UUA and a draft Statement of Conscience on the whole issue is proposed and voted upon at the UUA General Assembly. This year, the UUA proposed the following six topics as Study Action Issues: *Revitalizing American Democracy, Nuclear Disarmament, National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative, Immigration as a Moral Issue, Energy, Peace and Justice* (how are these linked), and *Ending Slavery*. At General Assembly this summer ONE proposal only will be chosen by GA delegates to be our Study/ Action Issue for 2010-2014. Full texts can be found at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/152637.shtml>. The topics are summarized below with the vote count from our congregation (we each were allowed to vote for five out of six issues) in parenthesis following each title. Our top vote getter: Revitalizing American Democracy.

- Revitalizing American Democracy (71 votes) Democracy requires an informed, engaged citizenry. Corporate and financial interests actively influence our government, but citizen participation and oversight have been insufficient to provide balance. Voting is important, but we must also keep informed, participate personally, discuss policy with others, observe all actions of government, and advocate for needed changes.
- Nuclear Disarmament (60 votes) Should the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) work with other faith communities to advocate a drastic reduction in existing inventories of nuclear weapons, with the goal of seeking their ultimate elimination?
- National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative (62 votes) The economic crisis and current political responses will continue to destabilize our communities and erode our democracy. We cannot return to "economics as usual" without deepening economic inequality, fragmenting community resilience, and exacerbating the ecological crisis. Most areas of injustice are connected to the nature of our current economic system.
- Immigration as a Moral Issue (68 votes) Migration of people—driven by economic, social, political and environmental factors—is taking place around the world. Millions are currently in transit, in refugee camps, in detention centers, or living and working in places without full legal status and without access to social services or protection of civil rights.
- Energy, Peace, and Justice (65 votes) Nations fight with each other to control natural resources. Energy use is essential for human survival. How can Unitarian Universalists help all people, in all nations, to secure an adequate supply of energy that is safe, affordable, and sustainable? How can we prevent energy conflict while promoting energy justice?
- Ending Slavery (52 votes) More people are enslaved today than at any time in history, about 27 million worldwide. They are in communities throughout the U.S. and their stolen labor creates objects we consume every day. Yet ending slavery forever is within our grasp. We can finish the work begun by our abolitionist forebears.

SEE SARASOTA AND MORE

A Behind The Scene Tour of the Sarasota Airport

We will have a guided tour of the airport operations, police department and the TSA luggage screening area.

Date: Wednesday, March 24th
 Time: Leave church at 9:30 a.m. Tour from 10:00-11:00.
 Cost: Free – including parking
 Lunch: We will return to the church for a picnic lunch

The airport has limited our group to twenty-five people.

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, March 17th to **Jeanie Craig**, jhcraig@mac.com or 751-5194





From The Garden Gate

After church on a recent Sunday, Sally Newcomer approached Diane wondering if she knew the whereabouts of Dr. Dick, the garden doc. (Diane is the long-suffering wife of Dr. Dick and leads the church volunteer landscaping crew. She indulges Dr. Dick's belief that he is a real garden expert.)

"He's such a wonderful person," Sally gushed. "He is in charge of the church gardens, he is the Church Finance Chair and he sings in the choir. Why, he is a modern Renaissance man and I want to meet him."

Diane reacted coolly, "Well he does fantasize..."

"Ooh," Sally interjected, "Fantasies!"

"Not that kind," Diane responded somewhat frostily and maybe a bit testily. "He just thinks that he knows a lot more than he really does."

"I don't understand," said a perplexed Sally.

"Well, come over to the Memorial Garden and I will give you a prime example," said Diane rather icily (note the progression of coolly, to frostily to icily – Diane was on a roll!)

Dr. Dick and Katherine, the church custodian, had been working in the garden pulling Golden Rain Tree seedlings. (As Dr. Dick has noted ad nauseum in columns of years gone by, February is "Golden Rain Tree season". The seeds fall from the tree in November, germinate and then in February little seedlings come up by the bazillions. They must be individually plucked from the earth.)

Diane whispered, "There are many things that Dr. Dick can't do like planting and pruning so he is assigned to weeding. He claims to have a PhD in weeding, but actually it is more like he has just made it through kindergarten."

Dr. Dick emerged from the garden with a small handful of golden rain tree seedlings. Katherine followed with two huge fistfuls. Diane motioned for Sally to look.

"Point taken," said Sally Newcomer. "Now where can I find **Rick Sandler**?"

Diane gave her a very warm smile.

Dick Happy



CARING COMMITTEE



Phil Kasten had hip surgery and is recovering nicely. He is currently at Heartland on Sawyer Road. Cards may be sent to 4230 Baird Street, Sarasota 34232.

It is good to see Helen Ellis back in church. She had broken her arm some weeks ago.

*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*

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 3rd 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.

Sue Moreland hosted the February Interweave Potluck/Meeting on Feb. 21st. **Bart Coyle** from Dignity was our speaker. **Janis Williams** will be our host for March (21st). All members and friends are cordially invited to all Interweave Events.

Interweave Sarasota showed the movie "Stonewall" to a record audience in February. The March movie will be announced later.

GAIN is planning a Spring Event to be held at the First Congregational UCC Church in May. Interweave members are helping with the planning of this event and will be a part of the program.

Ron Brown, Chair

**Newcomer to the Sanctuary**

We welcome into our Sanctuary for a trial period a very special pipe organ, hand-built by church member **Charlie Allman**. After the organ has been with us for a while and people have had a chance to experience its music, we will make a decision on whether to make it a permanent part of our musical family.

The Allman Pipe Organ has electro-mechanical action and includes a keyboard, a small blower motor, and a wind reservoir. The sound is produced by approximately 150 metal and wooden pipes (no synthesizer). The three ranks of pipes (principal, string, and flute) are controlled by seven stops the organist "pulls" to produce different types of sounds.

Tuning is simple and is required infrequently. Pipes are tuned by shortening or lengthening them using sliders (the metal pipes) or stoppers (the wooden pipes).

The organ has a small footprint and was built with portability in mind. It was used to accompany the 100+ member Concord (MA) chorus when they sang in a venue without a pipe organ. **Charlie** and **Donna** would disassemble it, load it into a Dodge caravan, and set it up on site in about 30 minutes. (It was first played outside their home by James David Christie, the organist of the Boston Symphony.)

The Allmans had two organs and a piano in their home in Carlisle, Massachusetts. They hosted various musical gatherings, which often included their organist and choir director from the Bedford UU Church. They love the little organ and will be thrilled if they are able to share it with their new church family in Sarasota.



If music be the food of love, play on!



- William Shakespeare

Earth Evangelists: Weather Isn't Climate



What a crazy winter. No one has escaped the extreme weather this season, and, ironically, the weather is being cited as evidence against the fact of climate change. Since the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota is a Green Sanctuary, and since we have for years hosted speakers, forums, curricula, small groups, and actions on the problem of climate change, many of us may feel immune to the growing cacophony of climate change denial.

Most of us know the difference between weather and climate. Weather is local and climate is global. Weather is short-term and climate is long-term. Climate scientists have long predicted "global weirding," of which global warming is but one of many possible variations. We now experience extreme weather: warmer but also colder, wetter but also drier, stormier but also calmer - right on schedule as symptoms of climate change.

When the inevitable next conversation runs to, "Can you believe this weather?", can we all be prepared to frame weather chat into a more meaningful discussion of climate change and the ways we are adapting, planning, and informing ourselves? Gardeners are looking at our freeze-dried domains, revising plans considering cold hardiness. We debate when to prune, whether to replant, how to redesign for greater drought resistance, what to bring indoors, what to let go of, what we really cherish enough to protect.

But when we look at the big picture of climate change, it's the garden of our human lives that we see. As we prepare to "power down" from peak oil, simplify in response to recession, and perhaps reset our relationships in community so that we can weather climate change, we may find that it is not only the gardeners who need to prune, replant or transplant, redesign, let go, and protect those we cherish.

For the Green Team,
Lea Hall

MARCH BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16th. All are invited.



LADIES POT LUCK LUNCH

A Ladies Pot Luck luncheon will be held on **Saturday, March 20th at noon in the Jefferson Room**. Welcome spring with a get-to-know-you luncheon. No need to sign up, just come and bring food to share.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS



The Denominational Affairs committee encourages a broad view of Unitarian Universalism through cooperation with our Cluster, District and the Unitarian Universalist Association. The committee provides information and encourages involvement in the Cluster, District and UUA. For the past several years UUCS has been well represented at the UUA General Assembly, held each year in June. This year GA will be held in Minneapolis. To learn more about these activities or become a member of the committee contact any one of the following.

- Lura Bradberry** 366-3713
- Joanne Curtis** 929-0578
- Ruth Sheridan** 921-9880
- Sara Anderson** 955-8257



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

- John Lennon

**SPRING MEETING OF THE SW FLORIDA CLUSTER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONS TO BE HELD AT OUR CHURCH**



The Spring Meeting of the SW Florida Cluster will be held at the **UU Church of Sarasota** on Saturday, March 6, 2010. Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and will end by 2:30 p.m. The focus will be on children. Join us to learn how to strengthen our RE programs.

Registration is due Sunday, February 28, 2010. The \$15 fee includes light morning fare and lunch. Checks may be made out to the SW Florida Cluster and returned to the church office.

FORUMS - 9:30 a.m.

March 7

**“The Pros and Cons of the School Millage Tax”
Jim Chastain, Moderator and Presenter**

An effort to present both sides of the vote to renew the one-cent school tax prior to the election on March 16th.

March 14

**“Community Radio and the Perpetuation of Democracy”
Marci Saunders, Moderator and Presenter**

(no further information available at press time)

March 21

**“How Can the United Nations and the Unitarian Universalist Church Develop a
Mutually Beneficial Educational Program”
Marie Davids, Moderator, Dorothy Watson Presenter**

UU-UNO church concerns may include: peace movements, human rights and the Human Rights Council, peacekeeping, unsigned treaties, International Criminal Court, Congress and the UN, international climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, UN reform and others.

March 28

**“Is it Possible to Eliminate War?”
Mitch Zavon, Moderator and Presenter**

A war is against everyone living in the area. War has varied over time from moderation and consideration to conventional specifics. Is it possible for peace to prevail without periodic of continuous war? At present, we have a different kind of war in the form of terrorism without clear objective interests in many locations.

NUTURE YOUR SPIRIT

HELP HEAL OUR WORLD



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, March 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 March Second Sunday Pot luck.

Tom Cook

Happy March Birthday to:

Karsten Zachariasen	1
Lorna Werner	3
Helen Laughlin	4
Ed Fisch	6
Gary Barnes	7
Shirley Sargent	7
Francesca Hughes	8
Mira Frederick	9
Sarah Risher	11
Arthur Wachsmann	11
Ruth Sheridan	12
Mark Burrow	13
Peter Van Peenen	13
Dee Widder	14
Carol Elbing	15
Larry Ellis	15
Janet Odell	16
Phil Winefordner	16
Nan Billings	18
Betty Cummings	19
Ed Pabian	20
Bob Fox	21
Verna Safran	25
Mildred Mallahan	27
Esther Martin	27
Wendy Davis	29



Happy March Anniversary to:

Lucille & Frederic Wallace	3
Isabel & Eric Oake	23
Andrea Dimino & John Foster	28
Jan Dorsett & Eric Wachsmann	30



BRIDGE for FUN

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Jefferson Room at 7pm.

This is half an hour earlier than in the past. This way we return home earlier. Call **Mira Frederick** at 921-6594 if you are interested in playing bridge. If you have just returned to Florida for the winter or if you live here year round - we'd like to have anyone interested in playing for fun.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Samuel L. Horst



We are sad to report the passing of Sam Horst on Sunday, February 14th. Sam was a very active member of this church. Among other things, Sam served on the Building and Grounds committee, worked on Pledge Dinners, and was a member of the Finance Committee.

Born in State College, Pennsylvania, Sam graduated from Penn State University. He had a long career in insurance and agricultural sales. In his spare time, Sam served as a Boy Scout leader, worked in community theater, and loved taking part in outdoor activities. Sam was a veteran of the U. S. Air Corps and the Army.

Sam leaves his wife, Josephine, and three children; Jory Barone and her husband, Dale, of Washington, D.C.; Jeffrey Horst and his wife, Lois, of Hyde Park, New York; and Rev. David Horst and his wife, Alyson. Rev. Horst has spoken from our pulpit. Sam and Josephine also have nine wonderful grandchildren; Nicholas and Michael Barone, Joshua, Benjamin and Seth Horst, Rachel Klein, Katherine Horst and Dominica and Darly Horst-Loy.

Sam's wonderful smile and generous nature will be missed by all in the congregation who knew him. We send our love and sympathy to Jo.

NEW MEMBERS

Allison Henley
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Henley.allison@gmail.com

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Topolina1025@yahoo.com

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Mary L. Mohr
4251 Pasadena Circle
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923-9988
ml.mohr@comcast.net

AMONG OURSELVES

Congratulations to **Mary Lou Keller**, aka Marilyn Kelly, for being signed by a book agent. She is writing her third novel. Mary Lou was a winner of the 2009 San Francisco Heart-to-Heart contest. Check out www.MarilynKelly.us to learn more.



Come see **Maia Rubin's** unique fiber sculpture. She'll be the featured artist craftsman at the Baobab Tree Gallery, 1113 - 12 St West, Bradenton, Village of the Arts beginning First Friday 4 to 9 p.m. on March 5th. The opening will be Saturday, March 6th from 11 to 4 p.m. The gallery is open the rest of the month on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Congratulations to **Brian Stewart**, who received a full scholarship to the University of Miami School of Law.

Joanne and Mike Curtis have a reason to be proud of their son, Dr. Michael Curtis. He recently joined the many medical teams in Haiti giving aid to those injured.

L.E.A.P. (Life Enriching Adult Program)

DANCES of UNIVERSAL PEACE is a participatory meditation practice and dance, which will be taught by **Susan Slack** and **Klaus Obermeit**. The one-hour sessions will be held Wednesday, March 10, April 14 and May 12 at 7:30 pm in the Jefferson Room. Cost is \$5.

SKEPTICS AND BELIEVERS: RELIGIOUS DEBATE is a DVD presentation of the questions that philosophers and religious thinkers have been reflecting and debating on for centuries. Professor Tyler Roberts, PHD Harvard, will lead you through a 36-lecture journey that will help you understand what the debates are about and why they continue. The first session will be held on Tuesday, March 16th at 10 a.m. in the Library. The additional sessions will be conducted thru the Spring with some breaks throughout. **NOTE: PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM (SKEPTICS AND BELIEVERS) MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE UU SARASOTA CHURCH BECAUSE OF THE COURSE AND DVD COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS.** The cost per participant will be approximately \$25.00. Registration for this program will begin February 28. Course leader for this program will be **Bob Dobson**. Participants should consider the following information prior to registering for this course:

This is a college level course which will normally requires 36 lectures of 30 minutes each. Participants will be expected to use the Study Guide to further their understanding of course content. The DVD and Transcript produced by The Teaching Company will not normally be available to individual participants and will be retained as property of UU Church of Sarasota. The Study Guide will become property of the Participant upon full payment of the course fee.

This course basically describes the "evolution" of Western religions and the persons involved. Further details can be found in The Teaching Company course no 4670. A copy can be obtained from the Course Leader.



SOCIAL JUSTICE - Homeless Census Information- How are we helping?

What's the magnitude of the homeless problem in Sarasota? We just received the 2009 Homeless Census report for our area. A brief summary is shown below; we look at Sarasota separately and combined with Manatee because the population travels between these two areas to access services, and governmental reporting requires the counties to be considered jointly for estimation of needed services and funding.

	Sarasota & Manatee Counties	Sarasota County Only
Number of homeless counted	1375	803
Female	466 (33%)	277 (36%)
Single	1100 (80%)	643 (84%)
18 years old	41 (3%)	23 (3%)
Age 18 – 59	1172 (85%)	661 (91%)
60 years old	77 (6%)	45 (6%)
Disabling Condition (Physical, Mental Or Addiction)	511 (37%)	325 (44%)

How are we as a church helping? We are working on housing conditions, availability and affordability extensively, and have been for several years. One thing that stands out in the census information is that in Sarasota, 56% of the homeless do not have a disabling condition which means their homelessness is most likely related to economic conditions. People of working age without children have the least support programs available to them, so they are really hurt when they lose or can't find housing due to economic conditions. We are working with the Public Housing Authority to improve living conditions and communicate better with the residents; also we provide some emergency assistance to the residents. All of this keeps low income people in the most affordable housing in Sarasota. We support Habitat for Humanity through volunteering in many capacities; Habitat is currently turning many foreclosed homes in our community into affordable, wonderful homes for working families (through the Neighborhood Stabilization Act funding). Come see a work site or volunteer with us the last Saturday of any month. Our church helps with temporary support at Salvation Army (helping to serve meals) and at Bethesda House (helping with their food bank for HIV/Aids clients). Come help us help our neighbors—you're welcome to stop by the Social Justice table in the courtyard any Sunday after worship service, or attend our monthly meetings—the next one is March 9 at noon in the South Wing.

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

UUCS ENDOWMENT FUND NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with Article VII of the By-Laws of the Endowment Fund Corporation, the Nominating Committee makes the following nominations for the office of Director, each for a two year term beginning at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Corporation:

Jim Craig
Kathleen K. Jones

This year two of the five elective positions on the Board must be filled. Jim Craig is completing his first term and has indicated that he will accept a nomination for a second term.

Tam Milton is completing her term and is not a candidate for re-election.

She has been a valuable member of the Board, serving most recently as Secretary.

Nominations by the Nominating Committee must be made at least one month before the Annual Meeting. This is notice of such nominations. Nominations may also be made on the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee Members:

Margret O'Neill, Minister
Rick Sandler, President of the Church
Charles Peirce, President of the Corporation
Jim Keeney, Treasurer of the Corporation

THANKS TO ALL WHO WORKED ON STEWARDSHIP DINNER

It took more than seventy members working together to make the evening a success. Some have asked that I explain the intent behind the menu. My goal was to marry UUA study item, Ethical Eating, to our own eating experience, by cooking and serving locally grown healthy foods. For instance, all citrus came from **Jeanie and Jim Craig's** many trees; vegetables for the gazpacho came from local grower, Brown's Grove, and vegetables for the roasted vegetable lasagna from Jessica's Organic Farms. You might consider these merchants when you shop. Jeanie Craig and team made all the delicious cookies; **Rhoda Villanueva** was the extraordinary cook and team leader for the salmon and gazpacho and **Jane Epes** donated and made all the lasagna. Then there were the waiters, mixers, choppers and other helpers who did the prep work. **Diane Happy, Nancy Sciore** and the **Artisans** decorated the room and the tables. And to all of you who helped to set up the sanctuary for the dinner and then helped to put everything back for the next morning's service - a special thank you. I am fortunate to be part of this wonderful community. Thanks to all.

Lura Bradberry

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



