

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



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SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.

July 19, 2008 — No. 2008-7

Rev. Roger C. Peltier, Minister

*Minister's Appointment Hours: 12 - 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and by Arrangement*

Church Office Calling Hours: 10-2 Monday thru Friday

*Brock H. Leach, Student Minister
Paul Lewis, Choir Director*

*Jan Dorsett, Pianist, David Katz, Soloist
Virginia Griesé, Religious Exploration Director
Sandy Theiss, Office Administrator & Bookkeeper
Katherine Isabelle, Custodian*

*Contact Editors:
Gail Colella, Jane Grundy, George Milburn
Contact E-Mail: contactnews@verizon.net*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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	<i>Sue Moreland</i>	<i>362-9497</i>
	<i>Logan Nicholson</i>	<i>922-0883</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 - 10:30

July 27
“The Great Mystery”
Rev. Susanne Nazian
Host: Dorothy Conlon

August 3
“Thoreau’s Nature—Our Response
Rev. Dr. E. Bonnie Devlin
Host: Klaus Obermeit

August 10
“Truth and Consequences”
Brock Leach, Student Minister
Host: Bill Orcutt

August 17
“Prophecying the Void and
Filling the Void”
Dominic Martia, Ph. D.

August 24
“Silencing the Female Voice”
Barbara G. Walker
Hosts: Jim Chastain, Mary Lou Keller

On Page 10 of this issue, you will find more information about these sermons and bios of the presenters.

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION –10:30

Until August 24th - **No Classes. Summer RE program.** Childcare will be provided in the Teen Room during the service.

Mary Lou Keller, Chairperson of Religious Exploration, is in charge of the summer program.



FLOWERS

If you wish to donate flowers on 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 FORUMS - 9:30

July 27
“Moral Values in Politics”
Moderator: John Foster
Presenter: Keith Fitzgerald

Keith Fitzgerald has a unique perspective on how to bring morality into politics, based on his experiences both as a political scientist and as a legislator in Tallahassee. Join us for his presentation and for open discussion of such questions as how morality enters politics, how to avoid self-righteousness while being morally responsible, or why liberals have been reluctant to talk about the moral basis to their ideas.

August 3
“Economic Justice: Building a Fair and Just
Economic Community”
Moderator: Marie Keeney

What would we be willing or able to give up or change if we decided that the poor of this world had a basic human right to enough food, adequate shelter, medical care, and educational opportunities that we take for granted?

August 10
“Generations”
Moderator: Harry Effer
Presenter: Tom Dente

“You belong to it, too. You came along at the same time. You can’t get away from it. You’re a part of it whether you want to be or not.” Thomas Wolfe in “You Can’t Go Home Again.” To which generation do you belong? Do you feel a part of it? What are the relationships between generations and history?

August 17
“Why Ethics and Morality Interest Philosophers”
Moderator: Leroy Sims
Presenter: Eric Steinberg

Emeritus Professor Steinberg will provide background ideas for our discussion of our application of situational ethics in our lives.

August 24
“Creation and Genesis”
Moderator: Pia Carlstedt
Presenter: Barbara Walker

What is the impact of creationism on modern education?

ROGER'S RUMINATIONS

With the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly freshly finished, I want to share these thoughts excerpted from the *UU World* article by Greg Hines, titled "Why I Go to General Assembly: Denominational diversity in all its splendor."



Greg writes...

Shortly after I returned home from last year's General Assembly, I got a call from a former member of my congregation in Jacksonville, Florida, who had moved to Maryland. She was telling me about her first visit to the local Unitarian Universalist church, and she was not happy about it.

The church had no Unitarian Universalist pagan group and didn't seem to want one, the tone of the usual model. This is not an unreasonable assumption, especially for new members who have attended churches in other denominations.

In many denominations, each local church uses the same prayers, follows the same cycle of holy days and liturgical seasons, and adorns the altar in the same way. The ministers tend to dress in the same style and use the same theological language. If you've been to one church, you have some idea what you'll find in another.

That's not how it is with Unitarian Universalists. All of those elements, and others as well, can vary widely from one church to another. Take ministers, for example.

I have been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville for just about twenty years. In that time I have seen three called ministers, two interim ministers, and one associate minister. Every time we have switched ministers, for whatever reason, invariably some of the people who joined under the last minister will listen to the new minister and say, "Well, he's not a real UU minister." But they are.

I know that every single minister that we have had, whether I got along with him or not, is a real Unitarian Universalist minister. And we have not really experienced any diversity in our ministers. All of the full-time senior ministers in my time or before have been heterosexual, married, white men. None of our ministers - senior, associate, or interim - has ever been a person of color.

But go to General Assembly and you will see a grand diversity of real Unitarian Universalist ministers: young

and old; male, female, and transgendered; gay, lesbian, and straight; black, white, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian.

They dress in all sorts of ways: business suits, academic robes, churchy gowns, and colorful, ethnic garb. And they speak in a wide variety of philosophical and theological languages. One minister I saw last year even had prominent tattoos and sideburns that Elvis would be proud of!

Our churches and congregations vary widely as well. Yes, some of them are close matches to my church, and some of them would make many members of my church uncomfortable. But every one is a real Unitarian Universalist church, filled with real Unitarian Universalists.

That is why I go to General Assembly. Going to GA is the best inoculation that I know to prevent denominational shallowness. Better than reading books. Better than visiting other UU churches on vacation. Even better than SUUSI or SWIM or any of the other UU camp experiences. No other experience shows me as clearly how diverse and rich and energetic our faith is. And that is why I urge all of you to go to General Assembly as well. I think my church is better for it, and I think it makes better Unitarian Universalists.

Next summer's General Assembly is in Salt Lake City, Utah. My mission this year is to push, pull, prod, beg, and invite as many of my congregation's members as possible to try to come with me. I would like to see our teens participate as well, as there are hundreds of UU youth at GA each year.

I'd like more of our board and committee chairs and religious education teachers to go; dozens of workshops help church leaders learn how their jobs could be easier. I would like to see more new members come, bringing their fresh perspectives.

But mostly I want them to come for selfish reasons. The joy of being at General Assembly can never be lessened by sharing it, but is rather made greater. Going together is being part of an ever-deepening experience that will benefit us as individuals, as a church and larger faith, and most of all as friends.

My friends, with a year to plan, I hope you'll join me in Salt Lake City, which happens to be the site of my very first GA and the place where I'll receive my "final fellowship" in the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Until then...

See you in church.

Rev. Roger



SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Working Together Building
a Better Community**

The Social Justice Committee is planning our new church year; and we have two new projects which will enable our whole church community to work together on local social justice projects. We've done this before and continue to do so with our work at the Helen Payne Day Nursery, serving meals at the Salvation Army, serving snacks and building at Habitat for Humanity, working with the Janie Poe Housing project, and bringing our refugee families from Ethiopia and Bosnia. The Helen Payne Day Nursery, the refugee resettlement project and the Janie Poe Housing project have moved onto new stages with fewer volunteers engaged, so our committee has been looking for new projects we can work on together as a community.

One project we have begun is our *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* Interfaith House Project with Habitat for Humanity in which we are raising the money with other local churches to sponsor a house for a family, and will participate in the building of the home, working side-by-side with the family for whom we are sponsoring the home. So far we have raised and gotten commitments for about \$40,000 out of the \$100,000 we need to sponsor the home, and we will spend more time this fall enlisting other churches to join us. We will be selecting a home site, and Habitat will identify a family for the home this September, and we can begin working on the house together as a community and with those in our interfaith network. There will be many ways to help with this project – assisting with raising money, building the home, serving snacks to volunteers, providing music at the home dedication, and supporting the family, if necessary, with any special needs or concerns. We hope everyone from our youngest members to our oldest members can feel a sense of connection to this project; so if you have any ideas of how you would like to be involved, please share them with us.

We would also like to join the Family Promise network of local churches. Family Promise is an innovative program which helps newly homeless families transition quickly back into permanent housing. Families are supported with temporary housing and meals at churches and a Family Promise Day Center where they are assisted with returning to housing and employment, if necessary. As I write this column, we are checking out this program by sharing the volunteer work of feeding and hosting families the week of July 13 – 20 with the congregation of Temple Beth Shalom; from this experience, the Social Justice Committee will make a recommendation to the church about becoming part of the Family Promise Coalition of Churches in our area. So far the

week is going well, and since one family in the program just got into an apartment, we have only one family at this time to assist. This again is a project we can all participate in by hosting, preparing or serving a meal, or purchasing needed food for the week.

If you'd like to learn more about these projects or have some ideas of your own you'd like to share, you are welcome to come to the next Social Justice Committee meeting, Tuesday, August 12, noon, in the South Wing.

See you at church,
Julie Leach and **Susan Hallock**
Co-chairs, Social Justice Committee



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



Valerie and John Kerwin
12014 Clubhouse Dr.
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
755-7431
valeriekerwin@verizon.net

Carolyn Martin
Sunnyside Retirement Center
5228 Sattler Lane
Sarasota FL 34232
371-2750 ext 218

New e-mail for **Julie Leach**
julie.leach@comcast.net

New e-mail for **Nancy Van Roekens**
nivr@earthlink.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 for our Interweave meeting and enjoy a potluck at the home of one of our members. The August Interweave meeting and potluck will be at the home of **Gail Colella** on August 17th. Our Interweave movie night will take place at the home of **Ron Brown** and **Logan Nicholson** on August 20th at 6 p.m. Pizza will be served—salads and munchies gratefully accepted. All are welcome. Watch your Orders of Service until then for more details on both events.

Ron Brown, Chair

Special Hurricane Season Planning



In the event that weather conditions require the cancellation of a Sunday service, every effort will be made to make the cancellation decision by Saturday afternoon before the service. We will notify members with internet service by e-mail and place a cancellation announcement for all others on the church office telephone answering machine. Those using the answering machine service may call the church after 5 p.m. on Saturday at 371-4974.



BED AND BREAKFAST

Do you need a place for friends or family to stay while visiting Sarasota? Our Bed and Breakfast is a good solution. The cost is \$70 a night for a room. In order to meet your individual needs, we request two weeks' notice. We are available to all UU's and friends. All proceeds go to the church.

Please call the church office at 371-4974 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and leave your message with **Sandy** and we will call you back and arrange for lodging.

Logan Nicholson and Ron Brown, Co-Chairs

Earth Evangelists 46



Here at our Wisconsin farm, the working theory comes from Permaculture, a way of living sustainably. Permaculturist David Blume lists

these dicta:

1. Work with nature, not against it.
2. Everything is a yield; realize its value and figure out its use.
3. Be allergic to any extra work.
4. Put things in the right place in relation to other things.
5. Never fight gravity.
6. The problem is the solution.

When Klaus discovered one bright morning that a 14-inch diameter log was balanced on the outhouse roof ridge, we were naturally dismayed. But the forester had just been out and taught us that the forest thins itself. This old box elder tree volunteered while Klaus was here to use the new chain saw! So we worked with nature. The wood, when cut and split, will warm many chilly mornings and evenings next year. That's a yield. Since that log was balanced up high, we had a choice about where it fell. We lassoed it, tied it to upright trees, and guided pieces of it down safely. We figured out which way all the trees threatening the outhouse needed to fall and we helped them fall that way, using gravity. No additional roof damage was sustained, we got a wonderful workout, and some trees with rotten heartwood are now resting properly on the ground.

That day we suffered no despair over climate change and peak oil. The work we did was necessary, exciting and fulfilling. We felt happy with our team work and our results. When despair over the state of the earth and guilt over energy consumption weigh on us, we can look to Permaculture for guidance in living a good life. I recommend this all-purpose koan*: how is my problem a solution?

For the Green Team,
Lea Hall

*: a paradox to be meditated upon that is used to train Zen Buddhist monks to abandon ultimate dependence on reason and to force them into gaining sudden intuitive enlightenment

CONTACT DEADLINES

The Contact deadline is **always** the third Thursday of the month unless you are otherwise informed. The upcoming deadlines are as follows:

- Thursday, August 21st at 12 noon**
- Thursday, September 18th at 12 noon**
- Thursday, October 16th at 12 noon**



President's Corner

As most of you have already heard, General Assembly was exciting and wonderful! There was something for everyone and we all attended many interesting lectures and workshops. We also met both candidates who are running for the presidency of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Some of our attendees manned booths in the Exhibition Hall, some volunteered to work at the convention center checking in delegates, answering questions, ushering in the big room in which we had the Plenary sessions and the Ware Lecture.

The Ware Lecture was the high point of GA for me. The speaker was Van Jones, a charismatic and can-do person, who urged us all to continue to fight for social justice, peace, and the greening of the planet. He's a man with ideas that could solve many of this country's present problems. You can see a video of his rousing speech on line at www.uua.org/ga. Go to Videos and scroll down to Saturday and the Ware Lecture. Click on that and you can watch the entire speech. It was so well received that the entire audience stood and cheered when it was done. Mr. Jones came down into the audience and was surrounded by the many young people who were attending the convention. They cheered him and patted him on back and would have carried him on their shoulders around the hall if they could have. It was wonderful seeing our youth so inspired!

Next year, as you may know, the General Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Salt Lake is a beautiful city surrounded by the Wasatch Mountains. It promises to be an exciting GA since the delegates will be selecting the new president of the UUA. I would urge each of you to go to at least one GA. It is a whirlwind of activities, fun, meeting new friends, reuniting with old friends, and most of all, it is a time of learning more about our faith—its history and what's happening now, how we can help to build Unitarian Universalism and make it grow.

I know it was great experience for all of us who went this year. A great bonus this time was that all the UU Church of Sarasota attendees were invited to a wonderful dinner on Friday evening at the house that was shared by the **Craigs**, the **Dentes**, the **Happys** and the **Sandlers**—and they plan to do the same in Salt Lake City!

I hope all of you are having a good summer wherever you are and wherever you've been.

Gail Colella



CARING COMMITTEE - Dee Widder, Chair

The Caring Committee provides short term help for transportation and meals. We also like to make visits, send cards and call you on the phone. If you would like a visit from the Caring Committee or would like to have a buddy check in on you, please call **Dee Widder** at 377-9028.



A Heartfelt Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every one of you. For the past five years you have been very supportive of me as your office administrator. It is my pleasure to be working with this invigorating and inspiring congregation. Your many kind words and generosity are greatly appreciated. I look forward to many more years of service with this congregation.

Many thanks,
Sandy (your behind the scenes person)



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Beverly A. & John F. Putz
 11528 Savannah Lakes Drive
 Parrish FL 34219
 941-776-8565
 bevputz@earthlink.net
 putzjb@earthlink.net

BRIDGE FOR FUN



We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Jefferson Room at the church. Call me and join us to enjoy fun bridge, usually 2 or 3 tables.

Mira Frederick 921-6594

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, August 10th, 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 August Second Sunday Pot luck.

Tom Cook

SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

This group is for people whose Spanish is rusty and who want to practice conversation. We meet in the Library at 5:30 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. For more information, call **Mira Frederick** at 621-6594.



AMONG OURSELVES

Church member **Alex Davis Shaw** and her husband, Forrest Shaw, are the new owners of Pastry Art, a Main Street restaurant. Stop in and have breakfast or lunch. Our best wishes to them in this new endeavor!

Greetings From Your Committee on Shared Ministry

As you may notice, the name of this committee has been changed from simply "Committee on Ministry" to "Committee on Shared Ministry" because the latter more accurately describes our purpose. Our "ministry" is about all of us. It is everything we do, together and individually, to further the goals, mission or vision of our church. Ministry is not just Sunday worship and pastoral care. It is also committee meetings, public forums, small groups and the social groups that enable us to connect and care for each other. It is maintaining our beautiful grounds, taking classes together and working for social justice in the larger community. Clearly when each of us supports and contributes to our shared ministry then our church flourishes, and we will better serve the needs of the larger community as well as the needs within. One of the roles of the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is to facilitate this process through positive collaboration. COSMs have no role in governance or setting policies but are designed to help us find ways to work together creatively. This is an amazing church filled with a congregation that is rich in compassion and experience. Much is already flourishing, and with your assistance, your ideas and your energy much more is possible.

In what ways could the COSM facilitate your ideas and desires? Obviously, the first step is to understand what you see as our needs and which areas you see as having potential for growth and change. Beginning this fall we will be offering a series of town meetings focusing on areas that could help us fulfill our vision. We have some ideas regarding possible topics to discuss and would love to have your ideas for town meeting topics as well. The parameters are that they be topics which could further our church's goals and vision and that if possible you include some positive suggestions regarding how to proceed. Our goal for the town meetings is to provide a platform for your interests and needs and to then help you identify others who share this interest so that you may work together collaboratively. Please contact any of the members of the COSM with your suggestions. Your COSM will also be developing and distributing some brief surveys for everyone's input beginning in the fall, and we will of course keep you apprised of the results of these efforts.

Since the COSM is charged with looking at the entire ministry, and we wish to gain as broad a perspective as possible, we will also be talking with the Board, the Council, Roger and Brock, our Minister and Student Minister respectively, and others.

COSM Members: **Ron Brown, Jill Delano, Julie Leach, Jim Raudabaugh, Nancy Thomas** and **Phil Winefordner**, Chairperson.



FROM THE GARDEN GATE

Dr. Dick, the garden doc, was "in absentia" from the garden during the last week in June. Weeds did not get pulled; advice did not get dispensed, communication ceased. Dr. Dick, along with Diane and 22 other Sarasota UUs, was dutifully attending the UUA General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale.

Dr. Dick went along because he was sure he would get some helpful hints at the conference. "Where are the gardening exhibits?" he wanted to know upon arrival at the Convention Center.

"There are none," answered Diane rather impatiently. "This is a church convention. There are inspirational sessions, informational sessions and interactive opportunities."

"Hmm," said Dr. Dick "Inspiration, information and interaction. Nice alliteration!"

Rather than staying at a hotel, Dr. Dick and Diane were sharing a house with the Dentes, Sandlers, and Craigs. (The couples had drawn straws to see who got the best bedroom. Dr. Dick – because of his obvious virtue – and Diane won the drawing and occupied the third story penthouse suite. And lest our creaky knees get worn out climbing stairs, our bedroom could be accessed by our own elevator!) On Friday night the group hosted a buffet for the 24 Sarasota UUs attending GA.

"What did you think of the party?" asked Diane.

"It was a great opportunity for everyone to get together away from church, but I got tired of doing all the cooking."

"You didn't do any cooking," said Diane. "Jeanie Craig did the biggest part and Barbara Sandler, Catherine Dente and I assisted her. You did nothing but drink wine and take all the ladies to the third floor on the elevator to show them our penthouse suite. And speaking of cooking, I want to talk with you about the workshop I attended talking about the Women's Role in the 21st Century. In the 21st century, I learned that women do not have to do all the cooking."

"Yeah, like that's going to happen," muttered Dr. Dick. "With all this talk of cooking, I feel a tension headache coming on," and he retreated to his third floor penthouse suite. Alighting from the elevator, he sighed, "This is something I could get used to."

Alas, Dr. Dick has returned home to his modest Sarasota condo – he no longer has his elevator and elegant penthouse suite (and he is still doing none of the cooking). But the experience of attending GA has stayed with him – it was truly "inspiring, informative and interactive".

A personal note from Dr. Dick: We found renting a house and sharing it with other couples cheaper than staying at a hotel, lots of fun and we are looking forward to doing something similar at the next GA in Salt Lake City.

Dick Happy

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

On September 11-12, 2008, Evangelicals for Human Rights, with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and Mercer University, will host a national summit on torture in Atlanta, GA, on the campus of Mercer University. Featuring some of the nation's top thinkers and leaders in the anti-torture community, this conference is co-sponsored by an unprecedented group of organizations.

Religious Faith, Torture, and Our National Soul is organized and co-sponsored by individuals and groups who have sought to mobilize Americans and people of faith to oppose human rights violations in the struggle against terrorism. There will be moments of prayer and biblical reflection that embody the convictions of the sponsoring organizations, and the entire event will be infused with moral conviction drawn from religious tradition.

Conference speakers will reflect a variety of faith perspectives. The conference is open to all who will come. Our vision is that the conference will be a template for the kind of discourse, both faith-based and otherwise, that opens wide the doors for dialogue rather than closing them. Rabbis for Human Rights and the Islamic Society of North America are co-sponsors of the event. Muslims and Jews are encouraged to attend.

We invite you to be a part of this important conference. Register fee is \$150. Deadline for registration is August 15, 2008. Seating is limited. We also encourage you to promote this conference with members of your organization or congregation.

Editor's note: Please go to their web site for further information on this conference. It can be accessed at:

http://www.evangelicalsforhumanrights.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=72&Itemid=106 .

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Tetzlaff



Evie Tetzlaff, a long-time member of this church, died on July 16th. She and her husband, Paul, moved to Sarasota from Evanston, Illinois and joined this church community.

Evie will be remembered for her ready smile and sunny nature. She was a member of the Elves, the wonderful people who meet at the church once a month to fold and stamp Contact for mailing. Evie was our longest-standing Elf, having performed her duties in that capacity for over thirty years!

Predeceased by her husband and her son, James, Evie leaves her daughters, Karen Simms and Linda Sikorski, who both live in Sarasota. She also leaves two sisters, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

In later years, Evie lived at Sunnyside Village. A memorial service took place at the Sunnyside Village Chapel on Monday, July 21st.

All of us who knew Evie will miss her very much. She was a ray of sunshine.

Happy August Birthday to:

Jody Lynn McBrien	1
Catherine Dente	4
Christina Holmes	4
Dave Widder	5
Lou Altman	6
Fran Gaston	6
Anne Derwent	9
Jennifer Highland	10
Frank Stocco	11
Harriet Frink	13
Phyllis Brening	14
Bill Geller	16
Rick Sandler	24
Roy Truby	24
Betty Baker	25
Terry Ripmaster	26
Sandy Theiss	28
Marie Davids	29



Happy August Anniversary to:

Janet & Vic Mahler	2
Carol & Alvar Elbing	3
Cynthia & Herb Young	11
Chris & Dick Dungan	13
Catherine & Tom Dente	14
Nancy & Bill Orcutt	15
Chris & Jeremy Sensenig	17
Joanne & Mike Curtis	18
Mary & Wendell Hough	20
Judy & Ed Hoerr	24
Shirley & Fred Sargent	28



First Friday Freethinkers - All Welcome!

The First Friday Freethinkers will meet at 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 1st in Jefferson Room. **Dr. Gene Elliott** will be making a presentation on energy. All are welcome!

When: **Friday, August 1, 2008**
 Where: Jefferson Room
 Time: 10:00-11:30 am
 Membership: Open to all

FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

One of life's processes is an ending. If you wish to have a Memorial Service at our church, we would like to have your form on file. Even if you do not plan to have a service at our church, we find it useful to have emergency contact names on file should a situation arise in which the church becomes involved. If you already have filled out a form, you may want to update it.

Please stop by the Memorial Forms table this Sunday and pick up a form to complete. The form is confidentially filed in the church office. It is opened by the Minister when necessary.

Often people overlook this important paper work but experience shows us that planning ahead lessens family heartaches.

Thank you - **Diane Happy** and **Dee Widder**,
 Memorial Committee



"Peace is our gift to each other."

- Elie Wiesel

Unitarian Universalist Association

July 27: Rev. Susanne Nazian
"The Great Mystery"

Rev. Susanne Nazian became the first minister of the UU Congregation of Venice in 2001. She holds the M.Div. degree from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She is co-author of "Living the Second Half", a curriculum on aging and spiritual issues.

August 3: Rev. Dr. E. Bonnie Devlin
"Thoreau's Nature – Our Response"

In keeping with the theme of great leaders and exemplars, Rev. Devlin will speak about one of her favorites – Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau's influences have been world-wide, from his days to the present, influencing other great leaders such as Gandhi, Rev. Martin Luther King and the modern ecology movement. Along with Emerson, he is perhaps our greatest Unitarian Universalist ambassador for civil disobedience and the importance of right relations with nature.

Rev. Bonnie Devlin has been a UU Parish Minister for over 18 years, currently serving the Manatee UU Fellowship in Bradenton. She is also a Music Therapist, Educator, and World Percussionist who has recently completed a major UU CD project called "The Drum and The Chalice." Her life and work is devoted to promoting multicultural awareness and social justice through music, the arts and spirituality.

August 10: Brock Leach, Student Minister
"Truth and Consequences"

Truth is an essential but elusive concept, and proclaiming it inevitably has consequences for good or ill. We all grow up learning how to couch our "true feelings" about others in ways that are truthful but not hurtful. But how do we stand up for our most deeply felt personal truths about the significant issues of our time—how do we "proclaim truth to power"-- but do so in a way that reaches the most minds and alienates the fewest hearts. That's some of our most challenging spiritual work, but it's essential if we're to have a prophetic voice that actually heals the world. We'll look to recent examples from near and far as well as our own UU tradition for guidance.

Our student minister, Brock Leach, is studying theology at the University of Chicago, hoping to graduate in 2011 and work in community ministry following his ordination right here in his home church.

Brock worked for PepsiCo for 24 years including as President and CEO of two of the company's divisions-- Frito-Lay North America and Tropicana Products. During the past 20 years, he and his wife, Julie, have been members of UU churches in Dallas, Texas, Framingham, Massachusetts, and Sarasota. They both have MBA's from the University of Chicago, where both their children will be studying this fall.

August 17: Dominic Martia, Ph. D.
"Prophecy the Void and Filling the Void"

A number of nineteenth century writers and thinkers warned that the coming era would bring a sense of personal emptiness to individuals. While this did occur, we have some good examples of people who found ways of escaping the personal void. This message will cover three of those examples.

Dominic Martia, Ph.D. retired from Roosevelt University in Chicago in 2000, when he and his wife Roberta moved to Sarasota. They joined the church about four years ago. At Roosevelt, Dominic was Vice President for Student Services and Professor of English and Humanities. Since his retirement he has been an adjunct professor at Barry University, Manatee Community College and The University of South Florida. His articles, essays, stories and poems have been published in over fifty U. S. and Canadian publications.

August 24: Barbara G. Walker
"Silencing the Female Voice"

Followers of the Judeo-Christian god worked assiduously to silence the opposition from other deities, notably the female ones. The resultant sexism remains in many modern religious organizations. Can ruthless, violent religions embrace the female and find wisdom?

Barbara G. Walker is the author of 22 books and numerous articles. Her Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets was named Book of the Year by the London Times. She has also been recognized by feminist and humanist organizations. She has worked as a journalist, a professional knitwear designer, dance teacher, artist, and leader of women's spirituality groups. She is a member of the UU Congregation of Venice, for whom she has given many sermons. She is also listed in "Who's Who in Hell" (a list of folks who hew to no religious creed.)