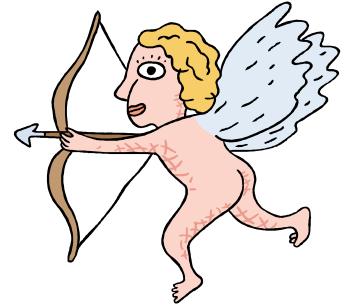


UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

Where Seekers Find a Home

OCTAGRAM

FEBRUARY
2009



Ms. Doyle Showcased on UUA Website

Just in case you haven't heard, our own member, Dotti Doyle, was featured on the front page of the UUA website in January as a champion of reproductive rights (during her work in Maine in the early 1970s).

And she has been "keeping up the good work" in all sorts of social justice projects the last thirty-plus years. What is she up to now? Check out her class on "The Global Food Crisis and Ethical Eating" (see page 10).

Congratulations, Dotti!

February 7 A Festive Auction and Chinese Feast. Year of the Ox.

To all you lovely people in UUC, we knew you would, we knew we could, and we now we know **Yes We Can!** In these last few days before the Asian Fest on February 7, our church's major fundraiser, the Auction Committee wishes to thank all of you for your patience, guidance, support and assistance. We needed it. This was a new "church adventure" for all three of us.

If you still need tickets, they will be available at the door the night of the event.

If you still have donations, we will accept them, along with your donor form, right up until February 1st.

(After January 18th, all donations will be placed as an addendum in the Program Directory for the bidder's information.)



We'll see all of you Saturday afternoon, February 7, at 4:00 pm. As the sun goes down you will see the gaily lit canopies, and the Lion Dancers performing their sacred dance. Watch the head of lettuce disappear.

Don't forget the photo op with that big ol' colorful lion. You may want to get started with your bidding immediately, because there are lots of treasures and deals. And then the magnificent Chinese Feast starts at 5:00 PM.



Together, all of us will put our best price forward to win the treasure, and share in all the fun and excitement; even more exciting if the big winner is YOU!

All this is waiting at this year's **ASIAN FEST AND AUCTION.**

Co-Chairs: Sage Chaney, (727) 536-8867, Sheila Knaust, (727) 735-8460, Joanne Osburn, (727) 729-8525

Inward Springs

Rev. Millie Rochester



People often ask me what a minister does – “What’s a typical week like for you?”

One of the qualities of ministry that appeals to me is that, while there are certain commonalities, every week is different from the one before. The commonalities will surprise

no one who is active in any congregation: reporting to the Board, meeting with staff and committees, counseling and otherwise providing pastoral care for parishioners, preparing for Sunday services and adult education classes, being in touch with people by email, phone, and in-person visits, study, conversing with Reverend Abhi, and ministerial collegiality.

Each of these elements of ministry is rich with the personalities, gifts and needs we all bring to our relationships with one another, so every day is different, every week is different. Much of an average week is planned in advance, that is, I know that events or activities will occur and when they will occur, such as regularly scheduled meetings, Sunday services, the celebrations of life, and holidays.

I like to create opportunities to be with people individually or in groups, such as the monthly lunches I had at Bayview Gardens

when many UUC members lived there and monthly *Lunch and Conversations with the Ministers* here at UUC. But there are also days when events unfold spontaneously, taking me from a morning I had expected to be in my office, to a hospital, hospice, or rehabilitation facility.

In the wider world, I am privileged to serve as a mentor to a new minister and to a student studying for ministry, so have in-depth conversations with them, and with Meadville Lombard Theological School faculty. I serve colleagues in ministry and religious education as a Good Officer (a minister to other ministers and religious educators), and on a Board of Directors. Each of these roles requires regular reporting, and I must admit that writing reports is not my favorite aspect of ministry.

A glance at the church calendar speaks to the energy of the UUC community, so as you might imagine, juggling dates and times is another aspect of what I do; and sometimes I am faced with the uncomfortable necessity of foregoing one event, needing to be present for another. It is not and never will be possible for any minister to be everywhere or do everything, and I know that. But I would not be able to do my best for you if I were not mindful of my own spiritual well-being; and so I take the time I need to be with my family and in solitude, as well.

Someone told me today that my greeting made him feel so warmly welcome, he wanted me to know how much that meant to him. I hope I convey that same feeling to each of you, for that is in my heart.

Blessings, Millie

Cash Flow Poster

We are a busy congregation with lots of activities, classes, and wonderful ministry, but it is important that we all know how UUC is doing financially week by week. Joe Myers has designed a poster on which every Sunday you will be able to track actual UUC cash flow compared to 2007-2008 budget projections. Watch for the display in the UUC entrance each Sunday. *Susan Hegner, President*



Thank You to Concert Organizers

Cathy Costa and Barry Skeete, who, with Rev. Abhi’s and Frank Wells’ help, put together a fabulous concert to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on January 17. Cathy played the Native American flute and Barry played percussion. Our Chorale, two other choruses, Fred Johnson and his team of excellent musicians, singers, and dancers made this an inspiring evening to remember.

**Gifts of flowers for Sunday services are always welcome.
The Flower Committee will be happy to order them for you
[call Carol Heichel, (727) 738-8982]
or you may bring in your own arrangement.**

Forms available outside the church office allow us to co-ordinate contributions.



UUA Trustee Tidbits

In these uncertain economic times it is more important than ever for us to maintain our support for our home congregations, our District and UUA. There are folks in the congregation and in your community who will need the spiritual and emotional support found by attending UU services and we need to be there for them as they face difficult financial times. If history is an indicator, the economic downturn facing the U.S. will have an impact on charitable giving and this will effect congregations. It will be necessary for those of us who can continue to meet our pledges to our congregations and our wider Association to do so...and perhaps then some.

I also know some of our Florida congregations will be conducting annual stewardship drives in the spring, so I offer some suggestions paraphrased from Laura Amabile, Director of the Annual Program Fund who recently wrote a piece after reading *Enjoy the Ride: How to Effectively Raise Funds in a Roller-coaster Economy*, by Mary Ellen Collins:



(1) Be prepared to articulate your congregation's vision and mission statement in compelling ways that elicit a high level of financial support; (2) Build solid relationships in and among the congregation; (3) Avoid a dramatic shift in the manner in which your congregation conducts the stewardship drive or any fund raising activities; (4) Maintain strong communications about the activities going on in the congregation by spreading accurate news enthusiastically; (5) Practice openness and accountability about the financial condition of the congregation; and (6) Have the board meet regularly with the congregants to answer questions and keep the congregants informed about all that is going on within the congregation.

In addition, I offer these thoughts to encourage congregations. Remember, generosity is a spiritual issue of the heart. A spiritually mature person cannot move forward until it is understood that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The conversation must move beyond boring stewardship to exciting generosity. Tell stories about how the generosity of persons changed the life of your congregation and lives within the congregation. Keep building relationship trust within the congregation. Cease ineffective programs and activities in the congregation. And finally, make it a practice to continually thank people for their time and financial generosity to the congregation, especially those persons and families who are pledging for the first time.



As you consider making plans for 2009 in the midst of economic uncertainty, remember adaptations may be necessary in the overall ministry of your congregation. I know UUs will continue with our faith and good works in the times ahead. Please email (jlund@uua.org) or telephone me (813-931-9727) with thoughts, concerns, or with whatever you might like to communicate.

— Joan Lund, Trustee

Parking Proficiency

Now through mid-April is the busiest part of the congregational year. We are fortunate to have many winter visitors with us, and we attract new members all the time. If we want as many people as possible to share Rev. Abhi's message and the community of UUC, we need to maximize our parking space. There are three different places to park: behind the Social Hall on the east side of the property; on the grass and on the side of the entry drive off Nursery Road; and of course, the main lot opposite the main entrance to the Octagon building. Where there are chalk please use them. Please utilize all spaces in park closely together to maximize the number Committee will try to have people in the main maximize the space available. If you are younger parking further out, so that those who are not space closer to the sanctuary. We also need to those for members who really need them. If we'll find a proper parking space for them. If the Parking Pasha, Mark Brandt.



markings for parking in the first two places, these two areas. In our main lot, it's important to of cars that we can fit in. The Sunday Services lot to help guide folks in to spots that will opti- and more energetic, or at least feel that way, try quite as spry, except in their minds, can find a be aware of the handicap parking spots and save people want to experience what we have to offer, you have any questions about parking, please see

Above & Beyond Honoree for February

Congratulations

Marlene Calderone was selected by the UUC Board of Directors as the February 2009 recipient of the Above and Beyond Award. This award is given monthly to an outstanding UUC member in honor of his or her volunteer work on behalf of our congregation. Marlene was selected for her inspiring leadership of our Social Justice Committee. Now in her third year in this role, Marlene has very ably guided our efforts to assist farm workers in Immokalee, Florida, and students in the Khasi Hills of India. She also coordinated our recent project to feed the homeless right here in Pinellas County. She and everyone on the Social Justice Committee do an excellent job of putting our UU principles and values into action. Thank you, Marlene, for being such a caring and inspiring volunteer.



Marlene Calderone!

Yes We Can!

Stewardship 2009

I learned something quite remarkable about our membership the other day. Maybe you will find it remarkable too. Did you know that on most Sundays over **70%** of our members attend church? I was surprised when I heard this from Abhi in a conversation I had with him following his sermon on “Pursuing Excellence: Realistic Goal or a Pipe Dream?” in early January. Religious surveys and studies show this to be an unusually high number for any congregation of any faith.

I think that number, over **70%** membership attendance, on any given Sunday says a lot of about us. I also think some of the points he made in his sermon are worth thinking about in the context of our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. Abhi made the point very well that “Excellence” isn’t just about the performance of the minister. It isn’t just about providing an inspiring or meaningful message and well organized worship experience. But rather it is about the community and the community’s participation in the form of attendance, the community’s support of the various church ministries; it is about the community taking responsibility for “Excellence” too and the support of them through our loving generosity.



The first key event will be our Kick-off Party in the Social Hall on Saturday, February 28 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The evening will be dedicated to fun, fellowship, delicious food, drinks, entertainment, and a few short speeches. At the party, each member will receive a packet of information about our finances, the Campaign, a pledge form, and a return envelope.

We will be asking each member to return the completed pledge form at our second event, Stewardship Sunday, on March 8, The Stewardship Committee will have a table outside the Octagon to receive your sealed pledge envelopes on that day.

Success will depend on your attendance and generosity. Success will depend on the same motivation that results in over **70%** of our members attending services on any given Sunday. The Stewardship Committee is asking that you please attend this event, review the material that will be provided, and return your completed pledge on Stewardship Sunday.

A large turn out will increase the fun and fellowship. The week after the party will give each of us the time and opportunity to reflect on what UUC means to us and our family. What makes it that special spiritual place and community? The answers are worth the time to think about.

I hope that those questions and period for reflection will open your generous heart for all of us at UUC. Thank you.

—Bill Snell, Stewardship Chairman

I ask all of us to think about this as we approach Stewardship this year; the events planned to celebrate and support our spiritual community and especially our love for the ministries of Rev. Abhi Janamanchi and Rev. Millie Rochester.



I mentioned last month that our Stewardship Campaign this year would be run a little differently than in the recent past. And it will be. Here is how it will work.

Social Justice News

► Living Wage

Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign is a fast-growing non-partisan coalition of more than ninety faith, community, labor and business organizations committed to raising the minimum wage. The UUA and the UU Service Committee are active members. Join the Let Justice Roll National Campaign for \$10 in 2010 Federal Minimum Wage. In hard economic times it is more important than ever for people of faith to stand with low-wage workers & their families. Let us remember the minimum



wage was not enacted during good times, but during the extremely hard times of the Great Depression. When the federal minimum wage was established in 1938, the unemployment rate was a very high 19 percent. President Roosevelt saw the minimum wage as "an essential part of economic recovery." It would put a floor under workers wages, alleviate the hardship of inadequate wages, and stimulate the economy and job creation by increasing consumer purchasing power.

At the 2008 UUA General Assembly, delegates adopted an Action of Immediate Witness supporting the \$10 in 2010 and called on UU congregations to join the Living Wage Campaign. "Rewarding an honest day's labor with a just living wage is the right thing to do, and advocating for fair compensation is our religious duty. It is only when our most vulnerable sisters and brothers achieve a basic level of economic and physical security that they can embark upon a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Making that spiritual journey possible for all people is the heart and soul of Unitarian Universalism." Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA.

► Split the Plate

In keeping with our focus of helping those less fortunate in Pinellas County during these difficult economic times we have selected the St. Petersburg Free Clinic for the February 8 Split the Plate collection. For 37 years, the St. Petersburg Free Clinic has provided temporary assistance for those who require help with basic needs. The basic needs are food, shelter, medical care, limited financial assistance, and referral information. Those who are assisted are mainly the "working poor" and those that "fall through the cracks" of other existing services. We achieve our



mission through five dynamic programs: Free Clinic Beacon House, Free Clinic Food Bank, Free Clinic Health Center, Free Clinic We Help Services, and Free Clinic Women's Residence. Eighty-seven cents of each dollar donated goes directly to programs and services. Please give generously to this vital organization.

► Association Sunday

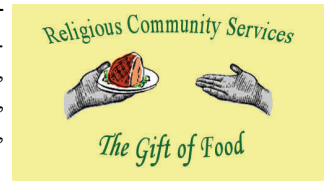
Our participation in Association Sunday netted approximately \$1,000 for the UUA and \$300 for UUC. We thank all of you for your bounteousness.

► The Khasi Hills Sponsor-A-Student Project – Help Reach Our Goal

This is your last chance to help us reach our goal of \$5,000 to support "our" school in the Khasi Hills of India. We are close but need a few more sponsors. Make a child's dream of an education come true. The cost is just \$50 per student. Of course, donations in lieu of sponsorship are also much appreciated. If you act quickly we can include your donation with our wire transfer in mid-February. Leave your checks and forms at the Social Justice table, in the Social Justice mailbox or give them to Catherine Conover or Marlene Calderone Call Catherine with any questions (727-725-3855) and thank you for your continued support.

► RCS (Religious Community Services) Reminder

Remember to bring in your canned goods, non-perishable food items and toiletries for the RCS Food Bank and The Haven of RCS. Deposit them in the RCS box in the UUC lobby. Requests for assistance have risen dramatically and the need is great. Suggestions include: canned meats, vegetables, juices and fruits, rice, pasta, peanut butter, nuts, flour, sugar and cornmeal.



► UUSC – Unitarian Universalists Service Committee Guest at Your Table

Remember to continue "feeding" your Guest at Your Table box. We are allowing extra time this year and will collect them by the end of March. Don't forget, to become a member of UUSC complete the membership form on the side of the box.

► Social Justice Committee meeting – Presentations and a Change of Meeting Room

We will meet in the **Chorale room** on Saturday, **February 7**. A presentation by Art Hansen explaining Restorative Justice, a non-judicial healing approach to justice, will include a ten minute video followed by discussion. Dotti Doyle will also speak to us about the North West Environmental Institute and Ethical Eating. Learn about these two important issues. Join us from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. Everyone, members or friends, interested in these and other social justice issues, is welcome.

Open Issues Forum — Sundays at 9:30 am

February 1	Dorothy Wylie	Aging Gracefully as viewed by a graceful nonagenarian
February 8	Ronald Frase	My Unique Perception of the Economic and Political Policies of the Theory of Socialism
February 15	Pancake Breakfast	Open Issues is canceled
February 22	Ronald Moy	Saving Paradise -- How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire —Dot and Chuck Sollinger, Committee Co-chairs, (727) 797-7784

Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

February 1 **Money Matters** **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**
Talking about money is not easy. There are so many taboos surrounding it and I'm not a financial expert. Money has taken on the role of god in our world. How do we move money from being a controlling/critical force to a creative/joyful/spiritual one? The service will explore the concept of money as spiritual currency and some of its non-economic uses. Music by UUC Chorale.

February 8 **Struck by Grace** **Rev. Millie Rochester**
We may offer grace before meals, say someone moves gracefully or that we are graced by a person's presence. Is it possible to be *struck* by grace? What would that look like for a Unitarian Universalist? This service will explore the possibilities. This is Split the Plate Sunday with collection for St. Petersburg Free Clinic. Music by Linda Jones, pianist.

February 15 **Love One Another** **Rev. Naomi King
& Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**
Our winter *Bring-A-Friend-Sunday* service focuses on the compelling message of universalism (you are already loved, you are loveable, and you love) with the challenge of universalism in action, of love's primary obstacle being not enoughness. Music by a guest musician, TBA.

Rev. Naomi King entered our ministry after her local Unitarian Universalist congregation saved her life and restored her sense of hope in humanity. She has served our Association of Congregations on our Annual Program Fund, on the Board of Project Harvest Hope (a civil society and development program for our Transylvanian Unitarian homelands), and on the Board of our Unitarian Universalist Historical Society. She won the 2005 UUA Stewardship Sermon Award, and currently serves River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in western Broward County.



February 22 **Sea Change in Washington, Yes; Parting of the Red Sea, NO!** **Rev. Barry Lynn & Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**
Rev. Barry Lynn will take a realistic look at how the Obama administration and the new Congress could succeed, or fail, in preserving the separation of church and state. Music by UUC Chorale.



Since 1992, Rev. Lynn has served as executive director of **Americans United for Separation of Church and State**, a Washington, D.C. based organization dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution's religious liberty provisions (www.au.org). Rev. Lynn is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and an attorney, thus giving him a unique perspective on church-state issues. Rev. Lynn appears frequently in the media to offer analysis of First Amendment issues including PBS's "News Hour," the "Today Show," "60 Minutes," "Good Morning America," and "Larry King Live." His most recent book is *Piety & Politics: The Right Wing Assault on Religious Freedom*. He is the co-author of *First Freedom First: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State*.



February 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</u> Open Issues (P) <u>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Worship Service (O) <u>12:15 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Chats with Abhi or Millie - Guests & Newcomers (L)	2 <u>9:30 AM</u> Duplicate Bridge (P) <u>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM</u> Covenant Groups Facilitators Meeting (L)	3 <u>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</u> Membership Meeting (W) <u>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</u> Loving Kindness Meditation (O) <u>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</u> Buddhist Film & Discussion Group (P) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Committee on Ministry (Millie's Office) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Global Food Crisis & Ethical Eating (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</u> Social Bridge (CL) <u>7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</u> AA (W)	4 <u>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</u> Crabby Patty Soups (K) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Chorale Practice (C)	5 <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Children's RE Committee (RE Library)	6 <u>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Readers Forum (C) <u>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</u> Staff Meeting (Abhi's Office) <u>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Lunch and Conversation with the Ministers (W) <u>1:00 PM - 2:15 PM</u> Adult RE Committee Meeting (W) <u>7:00 PM</u> Zen Meditation (L)	7 <u>8:00 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Social Justice Committee (C) <u>8:00 PM</u> AA (P)
8 <u>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</u> Open Issues (P) <u>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Worship Service (O) <u>12:15 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Chats with Abhi or Millie - Guests & Newcomers (L) <u>12:30 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Laughter Yoga (L) <u>12:30 PM - 1:30 PM</u> Young Adult Median Covenant Group (W)	9 <u>9:30 AM</u> Duplicate Bridge (P)	10 <u>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</u> Loving Kindness Meditation (O) <u>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</u> Covenant Group Meeting (L) <u>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</u> Buddhist Film & Discussion Group (P) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Global Food Crisis & Ethical Eating (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</u> Social Bridge (CL) <u>7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</u> AA (W)	11 <u>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</u> Crabby Patty Soups (K) <u>5:30 PM - 6:30 PM</u> Finance Committee (W) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Chorale Practice (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Executive Committee (W)	12 <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Articulating Your UU Faith (P)	13 <u>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Readers Forum (C) <u>7:00 PM</u> Zen Meditation (L) <u>7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</u> Money Tunes (O)	14 <u>8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</u> Community Bazaar (Parking Lot) tentative <u>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Children's Love Offering (S,P) <u>8:00 PM</u> AA (P)
15 Bring A Friend Sunday <u>8:45 AM - 10:30 AM</u> Pancake Breakfast (S) <u>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</u> Open Issues (P) <u>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Worship Service (O) <u>12:15 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Chats with Abhi or Millie - Guests & Newcomers (L) <u>12:15 PM - 1:15 PM</u> Foundation Meeting (C) <u>12:30 PM - 2:30 PM</u> Social Justice - Partner Church (O,P)	16 <u>9:30 AM</u> Duplicate Bridge (P)	17 <u>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</u> Loving Kindness Meditation (O) <u>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</u> Buddhist Film & Discussion Group (P) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Global Food Crisis & Ethical Eating (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</u> Social Bridge (CL) <u>7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</u> AA (W)	18 <u>5:30 PM - 8:00 PM</u> BARCC (L) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Chorale Practice (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> UUC Board Meeting (P)	19 <u>12:30 PM - 5:00 PM</u> Directions for MH, CPI Refresher (S) <u>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</u> Private Event (L) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Articulating Your UU Faith (P) <u>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Women's Spiritual Drumming Group (L)	20 <u>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Readers Forum (C) <u>7:00 PM</u> Zen Meditation (L)	21 <u>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</u> UU Singles Foreign Films (P) <u>8:00 PM</u> AA (W)
22 <u>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</u> Open Issues (P) <u>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Worship Service (O) <u>12:15 PM - 1:00 PM</u> Chats with Abhi or Millie - Guests & Newcomers (L) <u>12:30 PM - 2:00 PM</u> Psi Symposium (P)	23 <u>9:30 AM</u> Duplicate Bridge (P)	24 <u>12:00 PM - 12:30 PM</u> Loving Kindness Meditation (O) <u>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM</u> Buddhist Film & Discussion Group (P) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Global Food Crisis & Ethical Eating (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:30 PM</u> Social Bridge (CL) <u>7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</u> AA (W)	25 <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Chorale Practice (C)	26 <u>9:00 AM - 3:00 PM</u> Take down and hang art (O) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Articulating Your UU Faith (P)	27 <u>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</u> Readers Forum (C) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Art Reception (O) <u>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Men's Night Out (CL) <u>7:00 PM</u> Zen Meditation (L)	28 <u>8:00 AM - 9:00 PM</u> Private Event (P) tentative <u>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</u> Stewardship Kickoff Party (S) <u>8:00 PM</u> AA (W)

UUC True Dharma Buddhist Study Group Tuesday Nights at 7:00 pm, Patio Room, Social Hall, UUC

Snow birds come and go yet there is always the dharma Tuesday nights at UUC. Fortune waxes and wanes yet there is always dharma study at UUC Tuesday nights. Our members commute to our meetings from all over the Tampa Bay area and a few even come from the UUC community. That's OK, we are always here when you need to escape samsara, the wheel of birth and death. When you are finally fed up with the futility of clinging to your lifelong habits and painful delusions, stop by Tuesday night. You are always welcome! Bring some munchies to share.

There are four Tuesdays this month. We will continue our ongoing analysis of Buddhist concepts of mind and bodhicitta and rationales for spiritual practice from Tibetan Buddhist perspectives the first three Tuesdays (February 3, 10 and 17). We recommend you prepare yourself by reading *What Makes You NOT A Buddhist* by Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse (Shambhala 2008). We observe minimal ritual, 20-30 minutes of guided meditation and heart discussions. We often show dharma instruction films or documentaries. Donation of \$5 per meeting is suggested to promote future dharma teaching.

The last Tuesday, February 24, will be a much lighter, mindfully mindless Zen-style with a guest speaker of culinary renown, Edward Espe Brown of the San Francisco Zen Center. Ed is famous for his cookbooks like *Tassajara Cooking*, *The Tassajara Bread Book* and co-authoring *The Greens Cookbook*. He is in the Tampa Bay area for a few days as a guest teacher of the Tampa Zen Center. A Zen priest since 1971 studying under Shunryu Suzuki Roshi, Brown became president and resident teacher of the SF Zen Center and very famous for his vegetarian recipes and Zen cooking techniques. We will show excerpts of a film about his life and teaching entitled *How to Cook Your Life* at 7:00 pm. An intimate discussion and Q & A session with Ed will follow. Suggested Donation: \$10. The film was very well received at Frank's Saturday morning meditation class at UU Tarpon Springs. Please email and/or call so we will know how many to expect.

Saddharma Frank Tedesco, truedharma108@gmail.com, (727) 512-4805.

A FILM BY DORIS DÖRRIE
**HOW TO COOK
YOUR LIFE**
WITH ZEN CHEF EDWARD ESPE BROWN



FIND NIRVANA IN THE KITCHEN



About Edward Espe Brown

Edward has been practicing Zen since 1965 and also has done extensive vipassana practice, yoga, and chi gung. He leads regular sitting groups and meditation retreats in Northern California and offers workshops in the U.S. and internationally on a variety of subjects, including cooking, handwriting change, and Mindfulness Touch. Edward is an accomplished chef, who helped found Greens Restaurant in San Francisco and worked with Deborah Madison in writing *The Greens Cookbook*. Edward's other books include *The Tassajara Bread Book*, *Tassajara Cooking*, *The Tassajara Recipe Book*, and *Tomato Blessings and Radish Teachings*. He also edited *Not Always So*, a collection of Suzuki Roshi's lectures. In 2007, Edward appeared in *How to Cook Your Life*, a critically acclaimed feature-length documentary film directed by Doris Dörrie.

Ongoing Events and This and That

Readers Forum

Readers Forum meets Fridays, 10:00 to 11:30 am, in the Chorale Room. The book for February is *In Between, Memoir of an Integration Baby* by UU Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed. Fee \$20 (\$5 if you already have the book). Forum led by Rev. Millie.



RE News

Being involved with RE can be a very rewarding experience on so many different levels. It is not just about teaching a class Sunday morning. It is about making connections just as you would in your every day life. Yes, teaching is a huge part of Religious Education. Without teachers, RE could not exist. RE can give you a chance to share hobbies, the different cultures you may encounter when traveling, and your faith, and to make new friends of all ages. It gives you an excuse to relax and have fun. Come share your life with us. Please contact Christine Pensa, RE Assistant, at christinepensa@att.net or (727) 442-3028 for additional information.

PSI Symposium

All meetings are in the Patio Room starting at 12:30 pm. For more information, contact Bobbie Watson, (813) 251-2991. Join us for good conversation and coffee. All are welcome.

February 22 – True Dharma Frank Tedesco will lead a discussion on *Neuroplasticity and Technologies of Transcendence: The Quantum, the Lotus and the Evolution of Consciousness*. Go to www.truedharma.org and www.truedharmaworks.org.

March 29 – Marcella Zinner will do a presentation on “Practical Intuition, how to develop it and how to use it.”

April 26 – We will show the 1-hour DVD "Conversations About Oneness," starring Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee and his son.

Membership Committee Meetings

The monthly meeting for the Membership Committee is on the first Tuesday of every month from 11:00 am to 12 noon in the Westwood Room. All are welcome.

—Mary Thornton, Membership Chairperson

Join the Tech Team

The tech team is looking for new members to work in the sound booth once a month. No experience is needed. You will learn how to operate the sound board, record DVD's and CD's, operate the DVD projector and more. If you are interested in learning more about the Tech Team contact John Frasier or stop by the sound booth after any service. Join us!

SUUSI = UU Heaven

Last week of July! Get your free catalog: www.suusi.org.

Community Builder Info Needed

If you would like to be included in the wide array of volunteer opportunities available at UUC and you haven't completed your Community Builder Information Form now is the time to do so. If you need another copy of the form, or if you have questions about it, please contact Bill Norsworthy at bnorsworthy@verizon.net.

Need to Buy Books at Amazon.com?

If so, please do so through the UUC website. On the front page of www.uuclearwater.org, at the bottom right, there is an access to Amazon.com. Use that access, and for any items you purchase, UUC gets 4 percent of your total purchase. That's a great fund raiser!

GenUUine New Orleans Mardi Gras!

The First UU Church of New Orleans is offering a unique opportunity to experience the greatest free party in the world, Mardi Gras in New Orleans, for a reasonable cost, with guidance from locals who know the ropes. Choose from a variety of options for housing, activities, and length of stay, February 21 to 25. Mardi Gras Day is Tuesday, February 24. More information: www.firstuuno.org (click Mardi Gras) or contact us at mardigras@firstuuno.org.



Enjoy Napa Valley and Benefit UUs

The UU Fellowship of North Bay in California offers Napa Valley Wine Country Holidays, including member hosting, for very reasonable prices, April through October. This is the principal fundraiser for a small fellowship in desperate need of a home of its own. For details, contact Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net.

Roommate Wanted

I am looking for a non-smoker, mature working professional female to share my lovely three bedroom home in east Clearwater, just west of U.S. 19, north of East Bay/Roosevelt, close to Rt. 275, and five minutes from UUC. Call me, Christine Shea, for details and rental/utilities fees at (727) 557-7078.

Next Deadline Feb. 15

Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email to Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline is midnight of the third Sunday of every month. For March issue, deadline is February 15, 2009.

Events in February and Beyond

Adult Ed: The Global Food Crisis & Ethical Eating, Starts February 3

Examine the ethical dimensions of how we perceive and integrate food in our lives – based on a 2008 Unitarian Universalist Association Study/Action Issue. Led by member Dotti Doyle. Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Patio Room; Fee \$20. (To register, go to www.uuclearwater.org/adults.htm, or call UUC office.)

UUC Auction Fest and Chinese Feast, February 7

See front page for article.

Adult Ed: Articulating Your UU Faith, Starts February 12

Practice what to say after you say, “I’m a Unitarian Universalist.” Gain inspiration, resources, and the opportunity for meaningful connection with fellow UUs. Thursdays, February 12, 19, 26, 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Patio Room; Fee \$20. (To register, go to www.uuclearwater.org/adults.htm, or call UUC office.)



Adult Ed: Money Tunes, February 13

A presentation weaving Irish-American fiddle fusion and philosophy, on the nature of prosperity. Led by Elan Chalford. Friday, February 13, 7:30 pm in the Octagon; Fee \$10. (To register, go to www.uuclearwater.org/adults.htm, or call UUC office.)



Pancake Breakfast, February 15

Come and eat to support Paul Langrock in his quest to prove that UU really is a food-based religion! Pancakes will be served in the Social Hall before worship services. (Open Issues is canceled to make way for more time to eat.) Fee charged.

Trip to Romania Partner Church Planning With Special Guest, February 15

UU Partner Church Council Travel Coordinator John Dale will provide a presentation and assist us in planning our trip to Romania to visit our Partner Church and congregation in Rupea/Kohalom. The trip will include visits to other churches and sites of historic significance to Unitarianism in Transylvania, the birthplace of this faith. This is an amazing opportunity to visit the land of our Unitarian ancestors and to share in worship and fellowship with their descendents. The countryside is captivating, the villagers are endearing, and the food is fresh and delicious. Join your UUC companions on a pilgrimage of reconnection. We will meet at 12:30 pm in the Patio Room following Sunday service. FMI call Elly Kelly Baker, (727) 848-7910 or 207-4994.

Women’s Spiritual Drumming Circle, February 19

We will gather Thursday from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Social Hall Library to consider "Love Lessons" and to drum, chant, and meditate on what love has taught us about life. Bring your own drum or experiment with those offered in the circle. No experience is required. The Women's Spiritual Drumming Circle meets monthly on the third Thursday. FMI call Elly Kelly Baker, (727) 848-7910 or 207-4994.

UU Singles 40 + Film Presentation, *Wild Strawberries*, February 21

As part of the UU Singles 40+ Spring Foreign Film Series, the Swedish 1958 award winning film *Wild Strawberries* will be shown on Saturday ay 7:00 pm in the Patio Room. Ingmar Bergman’s classic film concerns an elderly academic, introverted and emotionally arid, who makes a journey to collect a university award and en route relives his past through nightmares, dreams and memories as space and time are broken apart to reveal various levels of his inner life. A discussion with refreshments will follow the film presentation. \$3 donation (free for those who sign up in advance to volunteer to help). Wine and coffee specialty drinks available for an additional \$2 donation. Other films will be shown on the third Saturday evening of March, April, and May. Contact Soledad Loba to volunteer to help or for more information at (727) 576-8003 or soledad_loba@hotmail.com.



Events in February and Beyond (continued)

How to Cook Your Life, February 24

See article on page 8..

The International Convocation of UU Women (ICU UW), February 26 to March 1, 2009

The ICU UW will be gathering in Houston, TX, with intention for "Weaving global partnerships to enrich women's lives." This historic event marks the first national gathering of UU women in fifteen years and the first time internationally ever. Join in the purposeful and celebratory energy of bringing our collective faith to action as we create a UU Global Village network to benefit women and families worldwide. The ICU UW strives to create a worldwide learning community of UU women, dedicated to enriching women's lives, worshipping together and sharing our stories, and supporting emerging leaders among us. The convocation focuses on women's issues through education, engagement, theological reflection, action and transformation. It is open to all genders. For more information go to the website www.ICUW.com, contact Sue Boone at (727) 531-5236, or Elly Kelly Baker at (727) 848-7910.



Stewardship Kick-Off, February 28

For details, see article by Bill Snell on page 4.

Yes We Can!

Tones for Living Workshop, March 1 & 15

Sponsored by PSI Symposium, a two-part workshop, A Journey toward Self-Discovery, March 1, 12:30 – 2:00 pm and Heart-Centered Chakra Balancing, March 15, 12:30 – 2:00 pm, is being presented in the Octagon by Elle Speed, a certified sound therapist and member of the Institute for Healing through Sound and Music. Elle is reaching out to the community in an effort to demonstrate to each individual our ability to manifest relief from anxiety and/or physical pain through the use of sound...our sound. A \$10 offering is requested per session. Please RSVP by Feb. 22 to Elle Speed at espeed@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-399-0921.

Third Annual Florida UU Choral Festival, at UUC, March 7-8

UUC will ring with song the week of March 7-8, as dozens of singers from UU congregations all over the state come together for a weekend of music, ending with the mass choir singing in our Sunday morning worship. Previous years have attracted 70+ singers from 8-10 congregations from South Florida to Tallahassee. Especially exciting: the premiere of a new gospel anthem by First UU Orlando music director Jamie Sterrett. The weekend will also feature a supper and visiting-musician-talent-show that you won't want to miss! And you can be a part of it! UCers are needed to provide home hospitality for some (most will stay in hotels), and to assist with the Saturday supper and other tasks, both in preparation for the weekend and during. If you can lend a hand, you'll be richly rewarded by the experience. So put Saturday, March 7 on your calendar for the supper and talent show, volunteer wherever your talents lie, and don't miss the amazing choir of 70 singers in our Sunday morning service on March 8!

Musically yours, Frank Wells, UUC Music Director

Florida District Annual Assembly, March 20-22

This event will be in Sarasota. More information will be available at www.floridadistrict.org.

UUA General Assembly, June 24-28

GA is in Salt Lake City, Utah this year. For more information, go to www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml. Pre-registration and hotel reservations begin March 2. Remember, the less expensive hotel rooms go fast.





2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL 33764

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OCTAGRAM

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists
Of Clearwater and the Octagon Arts Center

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**DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT OR A
QUESTION RELATING TO THE
MINISTER OR MINISTRY?**

If so, please contact one of the Members of
the Congregational Committee on Ministry:

Elly Kelly Baker	848-7910
Guy Chaney	536-8897
Sally Demarest	781-7665
Fred Seidl	331-7401
Hal Sparks	(813) 961-3898

*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email to
Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline is midnight
of the third Sunday of every month. For March
issue, deadline is February 15, 2009.*

**Sunday Worship Service
information is on centerfold.**

Visit: www.uuclearwater.org