



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
OF CLEARWATER

Where Seekers Find a Home

OCTAGRAM

NOVEMBER 2009



## Khasi Hills, India, Sponsor-A-Student Project Is Beginning a New Year of Sponsorship

You are again invited to sponsor a student at the Margaret Barr Memorial School in the Khasi Hills of Northeast India. **Sunday, November 8**, we will begin accepting sponsorships and donations for the children.

The Khasi Hills, Sponsor-A-Student Program began in 2001 to provide humanitarian support to students attending Unitarian schools in the Khasi Hills. The program supports education and builds understanding between students in Northeast India and their sponsors in Unitarian Universalist communities in the United States. This is the sixth year UUC has partnered with the Margaret Barr Memorial School. Each sponsor contributes support to the education of a student according to a budget that is jointly developed by the Social Justice Committee (SJC) and the school administration.

To be a sponsor, pick up a donation form from the SJC table in the Social Hall. Complete the form and write a check to UUC for **\$50 per student**, noting Khasi Hills on the memo line. Give the check and completed donation form to a SJC member or send it to UUC to the attention of Marlene Calderone, SJC. We will assign you a student giving you the student's name, age and sex. As part of our agreement with the school you are asked to correspond with your student once a year as part of a joint effort. If you choose not to correspond with a student, you may simply make a donation to the overall school budget.

The SJC will collect the letters and send them all together to the

students. In return the students will send their sponsors a letter and perhaps a picture or drawing. It is just that simple. Just \$50 can send a child to school for an entire year. Donations are gratefully accepted and don't forget holiday gift sponsorships are a wonderful idea.

Why do we continue to support this program? The Khasi Hills Sponsor-A-Student Project supports education and builds understanding with students and families. Unitarianism has helped the Khasis retain much of their tribal culture and many of their values. They have established schools open to children of all denominations. The Khasi Unitarians have found a balance between traditional values and the modern world. They stress the importance of education. They maintain their heritage of strong families and communities, including respect for elders and women. The Reverend Eva Cameron originator of the program said it best: *"In this time of a heightened sense of danger, I feel we are the ones doing the real anti-terrorist work, connecting people around the world, giving kids an education. These are the things the world really needs right now."*

We continue to be very excited about this project. We hope you are too. This has been a very successful program and the children and their teachers are counting on your continued support. If you would like additional information, please contact Marlene Calderone, Social Justice Council Chair at (727) 669-9517 or [mcaldero@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mcaldero@tampabay.rr.com)



About what are all these UU women  
smiling and laughing?

They delivered a fun performance  
of the Vagina Monologues  
in the Octagon on October 17.

Way to go, ladies!!!

Stay tuned for a possible repeat performance.

## Making Tracks with Rev. Bill



I enjoyed our celebration of inviting friends to have breakfast and to worship with us and I particularly enjoyed doing this on the same day as we welcomed new members. What a wonderful ceremony for visitors to experience. I was particularly struck that time was spent reading the comments of new members about why they were joining our religious community. Listening to their testimonies being read was for me hearing a sermon. It

also tells us why we are so important to the people who find a home here.

I also like the way UUC uses the wall that parallels Nursery Road to hang banners of various kinds. While I have heard some say they wish the current banner were more explicit, I like the simplicity and directness of "Standing on the Side of Love." What I like is that we do not attempt to qualify or circumscribe what we mean by love. If I sit and ponder on what this expresses about love, I find this to be a very bold statement.

Despite my admittedly reserved nature, I appreciate and admire boldness, especially when it is applied to things that are really important. I think a place that tries to find new truths through reason, justice and compassion is about as important as it gets. It bothers me that too many Unitarian Universalist congregations do not provide more visual cues to visitors about what it is we value. Let me give you an example of one UU congregation that does give some bold visual clues about its values, The Community Church of New York (Unitarian Universalist), which also

happens to be where I did my ministerial internship. This congregation is located on a very good spot in Manhattan, on the corner of Park Avenue and 35<sup>th</sup> Street, seven blocks south of Grand Central Station.

On its exterior red brick wall along 35<sup>th</sup> Street, there is a large statue of the prophet Isaiah beating a sword into a plowshare, representing the well-known Biblical passage about peacemaking. Hanging inside are six banners representing several of the world's religions, communicating how much the congregation values the sources of our faith. Arrayed around the sanctuary are bronze busts of religious leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Margaret Sanger and Albert Schweitzer. It does not take a visitor long to understand what this congregation values. I remember visiting our UU congregation in Wilmington, DE and seeing two very pithy quotes, cast in metal, on the exterior doors of the sanctuary and while I have now forgotten what they each said, they did tell me what the congregation was about. They were straightforward and unambiguous.

I like embellishments like these. To me they communicate what a congregation is about. They communicate courage and solidarity. I know that some people are fearful of doing things like this out of some sense of esthetics or not wanting to offend anyone. I would counter that we will bring into our congregation more who love what we value than those who will be put off or be offended. Think about what it would mean to have a meaningful quote prominently displayed or a piece of art that represented what UUC values. I would love to know what your thoughts are.

*See you soon! Bill*

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## Enjoy the Change for it is Good!

Like many of you, I am from the frosty North! I grew up in a quiet village on Long Island, New York. As a child, I remember the anticipation I felt waiting for the changes in the autumn air. For me, autumn represented a significant time of change. First, it meant that school would soon begin after Labor Day. Second, my birthday would arrive in mid-September. And finally, as a child raised in the Jewish faith, autumn was the turning of a leaf both figuratively in that it was a time for reflection with a new year and literally with the falling of the autumn leaves.

This autumn, change has been in the air during worship at Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater. The change that I am addressing centers around the chorale. You may have noticed some changes in the chorale. Some are easily palpable. There is a sense of professionalism by the way the chorale presents itself from the time it rises to sing its music until the time the chorale is seated. Some is not so easily seen but is greatly felt by myself, the choir members and most of all, by you.

There is a synergy of excitement and a connectedness of spirit

elevating the service. While it is true that I believe the chorale is a group of fine individuals, I believe that the sum of what they do is truly greater than their individual parts. Having said that though, I do want to celebrate the individuals who have continually created this profound sum in the past and continue to do so in the present. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge and thank some of our newer members as well as some of our returning members for being part of this magic. Some of our newer and returning members include soprano Helga Reaves, altos Mary Francis Aduddell and Jeanne Carney, tenors Allen Ongchangco and Pat McGiverin, and basses Bob Benton and Bill Price.



If you would like to be a part of our change, please feel free to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the choir room. No experience is required. All that is required is an open spirit.

*Blessed Be and Shalom, Dr. David Katz*

## Springing Up Out of the Earth

October 6, 2009 marked the birth of the Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Tampa Bay. With the ceremony to enshrine the Focus of Devotion in the altar, the eyes of the Buddha opened and shined on the new collective sangha (spiritual community), opening a new chapter in the history of RK in the United States. For me, this was a dream come true, a chance to spread the dharma from something completely new. As we recited from the sutra readings during the ceremony, I could not help but be overcome with emotion. I looked up to the newly-enshrined Buddha statue and felt in my heart not only great joy, but a sense that the Buddha was entrusting this mission of carrying out his work here to me, a significant yet wonderful challenge!

Nearly twenty people joined in this momentous event, mostly from the UUC congregation. Since the ceremony took place on a weekday morning and because I had not publicized it to much extent, I did not expect many people to be there. The turnout proved to me that there was great support here at UUC for interfaith work and as well as many personal wishes to further enhance their own faiths. They seemed to be springing up out of the earth, as the Bodhisattvas do in the Lotus Sutra at the call of the Buddha, when he needs them to help him spread the dharma. I was most humbled by everyone's sincere participation, acceptance, and respect on this important occasion.

The morning began early with a ceremony to purify the altar

space. This was done by scattering rice and salt around the altar and reciting the sutra readings. The actual ceremony began with a revelation of the Buddha statue (Focus of Devotion) and I gave a welcome address as well as explained the significance of the event. This was followed by Rev. Kotaro Suzuki, Director of RK International in Japan, who offered words of guidance. The ceremony concluded with a congratulatory address from Rev. Abhi Janamanchi of UUC for the establishment of the RK Dharma Center in Tampa Bay, as a landmark collaborative effort with the UUC.



I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to Rev. Janamanchi, Sue Boone, and many other members of the UUC for their unending support in making this a truly memorable and joyous occasion! It is clear that without their support, this ceremony would not have taken place. I would also like to thank Bob Lehner, for his expertise in construction and modification of the altar, which turned out absolutely beautiful. Special appreciation also goes out to Rev. Suzuki, Rev. Mizutani and the new RK of Tampa Bay members, Eric & Heather Kizzie, and Mary Sigman for their many contributions and the array of positive bodhisattva energy that they brought for this important ceremony. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!

*Rev. Nick Ozuna*

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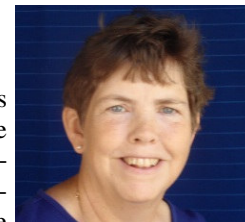
## New Office Administrator

The UUC Board of Trustees recently approved the hiring of Karen Roeder as our new Office Administrator. Karen has been working as our bookkeeper since February, 2008 and will continue with those duties as well as those of the Office. The Administrative Committee chose Karen to recommend to the Board, not only because of her qualifications for her new position, but also because of the qualities she has demonstrated over the last 20 months. All of those at UUC who have worked with her gave glowing references to the Committee, citing her efficiency, her pleasant manner, her unfailing courtesy and the ease with which she deals with members needing her attention. Karen will be in the UUC office from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please introduce yourself when you are in the office.



## Above & Beyond Honoree For November

Longtime UUC member Ellen Morgan was selected by the Board of Trustees as the November recipient of the Above and Beyond Award. Over the years, Ellen has assisted in many activities and projects. She was an important part of this year's very successful auction. We also have Ellen to thank for her work with the hospitality committee. She is the procurer of the goodies we enjoy during the Coffee Hour every week. Ellen is a wonderful, supportive member of our congregation and we all applaud her for her dedication and hard work on our behalf. Congratulations, Ellen, and thank you.



**Congratulations, Ellen Morgan!**

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## Air Conditioning Season Over

We have survived Florida's 2009 summer. Thanks to everyone conserving, our Florida Progress Energy costs were slightly less than in 2008, in the face of both a 15% rate increase and a slightly higher average outdoor temperature.

*— John Chase*

**The next Social Justice Council meeting is Saturday, November 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Westwood Room. All are welcome.**

**Khasi Hills, India, Sponsor-A-Student Project** Sponsorship year beginning November 8. See article on the front page.

## Split the Plate, November 8

Metropolitan Charities, Inc. of St. Petersburg received a donation check of \$577 for the October 11 Split the Plate collection. These funds will help Metro Charities provide premier HIV/AIDS services and related services to the GLBT community. Thank you for your bigheartedness. We have chosen the

Coalition of Immokalee Workers to be the November 8 Split the Plate recipient. Monies donated will assist the CIW in their fight for fair wages (one penny more per pound of tomatoes picked) safe working conditions and freedom from slavery. Please give generously.



## Volunteer

We are still in need of Team members. If you are still sitting on the fence, jump off and join the Social Justice Council. There are openings on all three Teams, Human Rights, Economic Justice, and Environmental Justice. Take your pick.

## Contact Your Legislators

Remember to make your voice heard by contacting your elected members of Congress about current issues of importance such as: Health Care Insurance Reform, Women's Reproductive Health Coverage, Climate and Energy legislation and Gulf Coast Civil Works.

## Human Rights – Allison Snell, Team Leader

October 11 was National Coming Out Day and we celebrated with a service about GLBT issues. Two of our members renewed their vows. The Standing on the Side of Love banner was hung on the wall in front of the church. One-hundred thirty-seven signatures have been obtained for the Standing on the Side of Love petition insisting on full equality for all people. We had a gathering of interested people at Unity in the afternoon and heard life stories of GLBT people. Bay News 9 was there and had a report on their station. Here is the link if you would like to see it. <http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2009/10/11/531961.html>

Several of us attended the presentation of David Swanson, author of "Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union" at the Tarpon Springs UU Church. It was very informative and Mr. Swanson said that we should concentrate on our Congress persons rather than Senators or the President. They are more accessible. We must keep the pressure on our representatives thereby encouraging them to think of alternatives to war. Lobbying them to cut off funding would be a good start.

A film called "Rethink Afghanistan" will be shown at UUC in the near future. Stay tuned for details.

## Economic Justice

– Linda Stoller, Team Leader

Support the Farm Workers: On Saturday, **November 14**, members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) will be coming to Clearwater as part of their Campaign for Fair Food. Since Publix has refused to work with the CIW to improve the wages and working conditions for the people who pick tomatoes in the fields, this fall the CIW is traveling around the state to join with local communities in their actions to ask Publix to sign a fair food agreement with the CIW. These events will culminate in a large public witness action at Publix headquarters in Lakeland on Saturday, December 5. On November 14, members of UUC, friends and farm workers will deliver the letters we have been signing to the manager of the Publix on Gulf to Bay and Belcher. On that same day we will also have a lunch and a discussion with the farm workers at the UUC. Check the weekly news email for details. This is an exciting time for the Farm Workers struggle for human rights and economic justice. They

have made great strides in reaching their goal, a penny per pound pay increase for the workers' wages. In addition progress has also been made in their struggle against slavery in the fields. You can help make these goals a reality by supporting the action on November 14, coming to the luncheon, stopping by the Social Justice table after services to sign the letter to the manager at our local Publix.

Fair Trade Chocolate Arrives: Stop by the Social Justice table after the service on November 8 and buy fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate. These items make great gifts. Their purchase supports the growers, the UUSC and the UUC.

The annual Soup Supper to benefit the Pinellas Support Committee of the National Farmworker Ministry will be on **November 21**. (Free but donations are greatly appreciated.) Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 3200 North McMullen Booth Road, is this year's host. This is a very important fundraiser for the Support Group. Let's show our support by attending.

## Environmental Justice

### – Dotti Doyle, Team Leader

The Green Team did not meet in October. However, we are working on developing an audit form and educational materials about the Green Sanctuary Accreditation process for the Board and the congregation. You'll be hearing more about this soon.

We organized a "Holy Noise" on October 24 to recognize International Day of Climate Action. There was world-wide participation in this activity as climate talks were taking place in Copenhagen. It was called the "350 Campaign," because 350 parts per million is the allowable amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. That has been exceeded by about 40 parts per million. We need to recognize this as we strive to reduce our carbon footprints.

The Green Team is planning to host UUC's **Thanksgiving Dinner** this year with an emphasis on whole foods. This does not mean it is a vegan meal, we will still have turkey! However, we

encourage people to bring dishes that are prepared from whole fresh foods. We would like Thanksgiving Day to be a day in which we thank all who have contributed to our food - the growers and packers, those who transport our food, those who sell it to us, those who prepare and serve it, and - maybe, most of all, those who clean up afterwards! Tickets and sign up sheets will be available soon. If you bring a dish to serve eight to ten people, the charge will be \$3.00; without a dish, \$10.00. No one will be served without a ticket. Proceeds will go toward the cost of the turkeys. If any money is left over, it will go into a fund for kitchen and bathroom renovation. Plan to come with a dish and help set up, serve and clean up. It is really a community event when all pitch in to make it happen. It will be held at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, November 26, with an In-Gathering at 2:30 p.m.

**The next Environmental Justice Team / Green Team meeting will be Saturday, November 21** in the Patio Room. Come help us plan Thanksgiving Dinner and other projects.

## UU Congregations and Green Sanctuary Status

When I first came to UUC eight years ago, I was pleased to see signs of environmental awareness. There were real cups for coffee, some recycling, Earth Day celebrations, and some discussions of environmental topics at Open Issues.

At the UUA General Assembly in Ft Lauderdale in 2008, I became aware of an issue that was recommended for congregations to study: Ethical Eating. As I explored this topic, I found that the UUA had a process by which congregations could get credit for the environmental actions they were taking. Since we had already demonstrated some environmentally positive practices, and many people were interested in exploring and doing more, it seemed like a good idea for UUC to apply for Green Sanctuary status. This article summarizes what needs to be done to apply for and receive Green Sanctuary accreditation.

Green Sanctuary congregations are committed to implementing sustainability measures in congregational life and encouraging individual members to make environmentally friendly choices. Program goals include: building awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues; encouraging personal life-style changes; engaging in community action on environmental issues, strengthening the connection between spiritual and Earth consciousness, and working to heal environmental injustices.

In order to be designated a Green Sanctuary, a congregation must:

1. Establish a GS team (*UUC has done this.*)

2. Conduct an environmental assessment (*UUC has had a Progress Energy audit; we are developing other assessment tools.*)
  3. Create an action plan
  4. Apply for GS candidacy (*This can be done online on a UUA form and including the action plan.*)
  5. Review feedback from a GS Review Team at the UUA (*I'm on one of those teams, so am familiar with the expectations.*)
  6. Make modifications to action plan
  7. Complete action plan
  8. Apply for accreditation
- Receive recognition as a Green Sanctuary

At least ten projects are required in four different areas as part of the action plan. The four focus areas are:

1. Worship and celebration (2 projects)
2. Religious Education (2 projects – one adult, one for children)
3. Sustainable Living (4 projects)
4. Environmental Justice (2 projects)

The usual length of time to accomplish this process is one and a half to two years. Some projects that UUC has already done or that are on-going may be included are part of our action plan. In future articles, I will describe what the Green Team is doing and invite you to join us in this process.

Join us at UUC for Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 26. The dinner can be considered one of our Worship and Celebration projects.

*Dotti (Green Jeans) Doyle*

## Open Issues Forum — Sundays at 9:30 am

**November 1 Chuck and Dot Sollinger: "Our Adventures -- and Misadventures -- in Romania last Summer."** Dot and Chuck traveled in Romania this past summer and visited our partner church there". They are UUC members and have been leading the Open Issues discussion forum for several years.

**November 8 Marlene Calderone: "UUC's expanded Social Justice Council,"** and its other leaders, Allison Snell, Linda Stoller and Dotti Doyle to discuss the Council's activities and commitment to social justice. In particular we'll have a conversation on how speakers and topics will be brought to Open Issues by the Council.

**November 15 Sierra Club: "Coal Country."** Preview of a not- yet-released documentary about mountaintop removal. The coal industry is blasting apart our mountains in Appalachia to access coal seams, then dumping the waste into our streams. This not only scars our mountains, it pollutes local water sources, threatens the health of nearby residents and divides communities.

**November 22 The Stanley Foundation: a 2008 DVD "Rising Powers: The New Global Reality"** to help us explore the rise of three countries. The Foundation aims to encourage discussion of three countries challenging the global order, some of the major issues that cut across national boundaries, and how all of this will impact American lives. This segment is 19 minutes about Brazil, after a 6 minute DVD introduction.

**November 29 The Stanley Foundation: a 2008 DVD "Rising Powers: The New Global Reality" continued.** (See November 22 above for details.) This segment is 22 minutes about China.

—John Chase, (727) 787-3085

## Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

**November 1** *El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)* **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**  
**Worship associate, Abhimanyu Janamanchi**

The Day of the Dead or All Souls Day is a day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away. It is a Roman Catholic day of commemoration and has prior origins in the ancient Pagan Festival of the Dead--which celebrated the Pagan belief that the souls of the dead would return for a meal with the family. The service will be a time for connecting our spirits and our souls, to loved ones lost. In honor of loved ones, family members, friends, mentors, and others who have died this past year, you are invited to bring a picture or other remembrance of that person and place it on the memorial altar. UUC Chorale and Linda Jones, pianist.

**November 8** **Compassionate Communication:** **Rev. LoraKim Joyner**  
**Peace Begins with You and UU** **Worship associate, Nick Ozuna**

This morning we will reflect on the principles and hopes of nonviolent communication and how they can help us grow peace in our families, work places, congregation, and communities, and hence build peace in the world. Rev. LoraKim Joyner, D.V.M. has been serving the UU Fellowship of Gainesville since August 2006 and the Florida UU District Board since 2007. She is also President of UU for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, facilitator of Nonviolent Communication, member of the UUA Nominating Committee, and Director of Lafeber Conservation. UUC Chorale and Linda Jones, pianist. This is Split the Plate Sunday (see page 4).

**November 15** **Alzheimer's: The Challenge and the Hope** **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Dorothy**  
**Wylie, Marie Chapman and Bill Norsworthy**

Today's service commemorates National Alzheimer's Awareness month by featuring a play written by UUC member Dorothy Wylie, *Savoring The Moment: A Play about Alzheimer's and Old Age*. Special music by the UUC children's choir, and solo vocal and piano music by Dr. David Katz.

**November 22** **From Thanksgiving to Thanks-living** **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**

There is more to Thanksgiving than eating good food, recognizing our good fortune, and giving thanks for it. Thanksgiving without works is pure piety. As Albert Schweitzer put it so simply and powerfully, "Good fortune obligates." The service will investigate. UUC chorale and Linda Jones, pianist.

**November 29** **Accepting Faith's Call** **Rev. Nick Ozuna; Worship Associate, Marty Pelham**

Today's service will reveal Rev. Nick's spiritual journey and awakenings. Flute music by Debbie Langrock, Pat McGiverin, et al. Linda Carroll, pianist.

# November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30</a> <a href="#">AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Worship Service (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 PM - 2:30</a> <a href="#">PM UU Foundation Committee Meeting (C)</a>	<b>2</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tampa Bay Music Making (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 8:30</a> <a href="#">PM Covenant Groups Facilitators Meeting (L)</a> <a href="#">7:30 PM - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>3</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Membership Meeting (W)</a> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30</a> <a href="#">PM Loving Kindness Meditation (O)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Social Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00</a> <a href="#">PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>4</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 11:00</a> <a href="#">AM Staff Meeting (Abhi's Office)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00</a> <a href="#">PM Property Committee Meeting (P)</a>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event - CEO Space (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Children's RE Committee (CL)</a>	<b>6</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Social Justice Committee (W)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 5:30</a> <a href="#">PM Story Telling Workshop</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 8:15</a> <a href="#">PM Stories with Miss ien ien (O)</a> <a href="#">8:00 PM AA (P)</a>
<b>8</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30</a> <a href="#">AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Worship Service (O)</a> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 1:30</a> <a href="#">PM RE Sponsored Luncheon</a> <a href="#">12:30 PM - 1:00</a> <a href="#">PM Laughter Yoga (L)</a> <a href="#">12:30 PM - 1:30</a> <a href="#">PM Young Adult Median Covenant Group (P)</a> <a href="#">1:00 PM - 3:00</a> <a href="#">PM UU101 (O)</a>	<b>9</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 2:00</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event - Faith In Action (S)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tampa Bay Music Making (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00</a> <a href="#">PM Covenant Group Facilitators Meeting (L)</a> <a href="#">7:30 PM - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>10</b> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30</a> <a href="#">PM Loving Kindness Meditation (O)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Social Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00</a> <a href="#">PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>11</b> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Adult RE Committee Mtg. (W)</a> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 1:00</a> <a href="#">PM Lunch with the Ministers (S)</a> <a href="#">5:30 PM - 6:30</a> <a href="#">PM Finance Committee (W)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00</a> <a href="#">PM Executive Committee (W)</a>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event - CEO Space (C)</a>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>14</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 4:00</a> <a href="#">PM Farmworkers Luncheon and Forum (S)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 6:00</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event (O)</a> <a href="#">8:00 PM AA (P)</a>
<b>15</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30</a> <a href="#">AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Worship Service (O)</a> <a href="#">1:00 PM - 2:00</a> <a href="#">PM Monthly Toning Event \$5 (P)</a>	<b>16</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tampa Bay Music Making (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Economic Justice Comm. Mtg (W)</a> <a href="#">7:30 PM - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30</a> <a href="#">PM Loving Kindness Meditation (O)</a> <a href="#">1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Covenant Group Meeting (L)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Unity of Clearwater)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Social Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00</a> <a href="#">PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>18</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00</a> <a href="#">PM UUC Board Meeting (P)</a>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">2:00 PM - 4:00</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event (L)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tae Kwon Do Training (S)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event - CEO Space (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Rudolph Steiner Class (W)</a>	<b>20</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>21</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Green Team/ Environmental Justice meeting</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 12:30</a> <a href="#">PM West Central Florida Cluster (W)</a> <a href="#">8:00 PM AA (P)</a>
<b>22</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30</a> <a href="#">AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Worship Service (O)</a>	<b>23</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Remove and Hang Art (O)</a> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tampa Bay Music Making (C)</a> <a href="#">7:30 PM - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>24</b> <a href="#">12:00 PM - 12:30</a> <a href="#">PM Loving Kindness Meditation (O)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Committee on Ministry (Abhi's office)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Social Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 10:00</a> <a href="#">PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>25</b> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Chorale Practice</a>	<b>26</b> <a href="#">Thanksgiving Dinner</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 9:30</a> <a href="#">PM Private Event - CEO Space (C)</a>	<b>27</b> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM - 9:00</a> <a href="#">PM Men's Night Out (CL)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>28</b> <a href="#">8:00 PM AA (P)</a>
<b>29</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 10:30</a> <a href="#">AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 AM - 11:30</a> <a href="#">AM Worship Service (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 PM - 2:00</a> <a href="#">PM Psi Symposium (P)</a>	<b>30</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM - 12:00</a> <a href="#">PM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 7:00</a> <a href="#">PM Tampa Bay Music Making (C)</a> <a href="#">7:30 PM - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>					



## UUA Trustee Tidbits

### — Service Grants

Many of you have read Michael Durall's new book, *The Almost Church Revitalized*, the "sequel" to *Almost Church*. Both provide valuable information and Durall's opinion of who we are, and our faith's numerical lack-of-growth over a number of years. What struck me is his message that although we, as Unitarian Universalists profess a status of being a "public" faith, one whose primary purpose is to serve the public good, in reality many of our congregations may not be addressing the significant issues of our wider world. Durall believes that most of our congregations are inward focused, thus "private" in nature. His writing prompted me to research UUA grants that congregations can receive for outreach beyond their four walls. One is featured this month.

The Fund for UU Social Responsibility offers grants to UU organizations to increase their direct involvement in service, advocacy, and/or community organizing to create justice in the larger world; to increase linkage between UUs and the larger community; and to foster a spirit of generosity and action in all aspects of UU communities. Priority is given to new programs, groups who are growing, and those involved in creating social and economic growth. Matching grants are available to congregations considering participation in a Congregation-Based Community

organizing group. The maximum grant is \$20,000; the average grant is \$8,800. The grant is made for one year; a second year may be possible after submitting a new proposal and a report about the funded grant year. Although a third year may be possible it is not likely; the Fund is not sustaining. Applications are accepted twice a year, March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>; complete application information is available on our UUA web site.

The grant is diverse in nature, and recent ones include: a community garden that will provide fresh produce daily for 1000 at-risk children; a program that ensures transportation for clients of a Healthy Start initiative which provides in-home mentoring services to struggling families at risk for child abuse; and the creation of an alliance between the religious community and the homeless community.

There are some restrictions. This grant is not made to individuals or for activities that are part of the ongoing work of UU institutions. The grant cannot be used as a pass-through from a UU congregation to a local non-profit organization, but can go towards enhancing UU involvement in a project.

On a personal note, I wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving and peace in your heart as we approach the holiday season. I can be reached at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727 and always look forward to hearing from you.

—Joan Lund, Trustee

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## RE News

With Thanksgiving only a few weeks away, I pause for a moment to think about what I am thankful for. Each Sunday, I am privileged to work with a group of dedicated people who truly enjoy being with our children and youth. Our volunteers have helped make our Religious Education program what it is today. However, sometimes I forget to thank the most important group of all, our children and youth. It is our children who bring smiles to our faces when we are having a bad day. It is our children who teach us to that it is okay to cry and that sometimes a hug really does make everything better. It is our children who keep us honest and remind us to say "I love you" daily. So, to all the children and youth at UUC, I am thankful for you.



We are still in need of teachers, assistants and playground peacekeepers to help keep our Religious Education Program going strong. Come be a part of RE and make a difference in the lives of our children and youth, and they will make a difference in yours.

Please contact me, Christine Pensa, RE Assistant, at [christine-pensa@att.net](mailto:christine-pensa@att.net) or 727-442-3028 for additional information.

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## SUUSI Workshop Proposals Deadline is November 15

Become a workshop leader and get a big discount at registration! The gates have been opened, the ribbons have been cut, and the workshop proposal period for SUUSI 2010 is now open! If you've got a great idea that you believe will resonate with the SUUSI community and a talent for leading a group, we invite you to consider offering a workshop. While workshop leaders do not receive cash payments for leading a workshop, leaders do receive credit toward registration & housing fees. For more information about the SUUSI Workshop program, please check out the workshop portion of the SUUSI web site: <http://suusi.org/workshops> or view previous catalogs: <http://suusi.org/catalog>. We love details! If your workshop is "new to SUUSI," a well defined agenda goes a long way. The deadline for Workshop Proposals is November 15, 2009. If you have any SUUSI workshop related questions, please email Jenian Gebeaux at [workshops@suusi.org](mailto:workshops@suusi.org).

## Events in November and Beyond

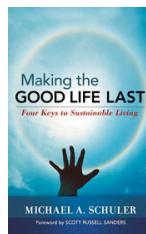
### UU Buddhist Fellowship, Tuesdays

Location: Social Hall. Time: 7:00 p.m. The **Tibetan medical expert Dr. Barry Clark** will speak at our first meeting in November 3. This will be the second of his talks on Buddhism and medicine in Tibet. \$15 donation gratefully accepted to defray costs. Barry Clark, an Englishman who now resides in New Zealand, studied for twenty years in India with Tibet's top doctors, including eighteen years with the famous Dr. Yeshe Donden who was the Dalai Lama's physician for that period. Dr. Clark leads workshops and gives consultations for all kinds of chronic diseases all over the world. See [www.drbarryclark.com](http://www.drbarryclark.com) for details about his programs and publications. Tuesdays, November 10, 17 and 24 will be film nights dedicated to Tibet and the Dalai Lama; Robert Thurman on Tibet from the Robert A. F. Thurman Collection, brilliant, funny, 240 min; The Dalai Lama Renaissance Vol. 1 Narrated by Harrison Ford and The Dalai Lama Renaissance Vol. 2 "A Revolution of Ideas" (if time allows). Don't forget "Thanks-Vegan" at UU Tampa for a harmless Thanksgiving without the barbaric ritual slaughter of turkeys, hogs and other sentient beings. The food is fantastic and the people kind. No compromises with bloodlust and cruel tradition. For more information about films and a non-violent holiday, contact Frank (727) 391-1152 or [truedharma108@gmail.com](mailto:truedharma108@gmail.com)



### Readers' Forum, Fridays

The Readers' Forum, led by John and Catherine Conover, (located behind the sanctuary) with Michael A. Schuler's to six weeks discussing each book. The cost is \$20, in-Books are available in the church office and at Friday in Madison, Wisconsin where Schuler has served as senior minister since 1988. During his tenure, the congregation has grown from *Last*, Schuler offers us four keys to sustainable living. He stimulation equal happiness. He shows how, by applying the principles of sustainability to our personal lives, we can discover treasures of perennial value: a beautiful and healthy earth home, enduring relationships, strong communities, work that contributes to the common good, and play that restores our bodies and lifts our souls.



continues Fridays, 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Chorale Room book *Making the Good Life Last*. We typically spend four sessions. Michael Schuler and his family make their home in Madison, Wisconsin where Schuler has served as senior minister of the First Unitarian Society of Madison since 1988. In *Making the Good Life* deconstructs the assumption that consumption and constant

### Art Shows

**Three Generations of American Women** art show features paintings of Faith Coddington Krucina and Ruth Coddington. The paintings are being shown by their proud owner, Felicity Coddington, daughter and granddaughter of the artists. More information may be found on the UUC website. The paintings may be seen **through Sunday, November 22**. They may also be seen by appointment by calling Charlene Carnes, (727) 789-3536. The **art of Shirley Frank** will be displayed before Thanksgiving with a **reception December 4**. Watch for more information in the December Octagram. *Charlene Carnes, Chair of Art Committee*



### Women's Night Out, November 5



Attention UUC Women. Are you interested in getting together occasionally without having to plan, schedule, clean, sell, cook or organize anything? If you would like to spend a little time just getting to know other UUC women for a bite to eat or a drink, please join us. We will be meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at a restaurant to be announced. Our next night out is scheduled for Thursday, November 5. Reservations have been made at the Pub Waterfront Restaurant and Lounge, 20025 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, FL 33785. **Please RSVP by November 3 to Nancy Nordyke-Shelley, (321) 297-5951, [nordykeshelley@hotmail.com](mailto:nordykeshelley@hotmail.com).**

### Story Teller Miss Jen Jen, November 7

Join renowned story-teller Miss Jen Jen in the Octagon on November 7 for an evening of family fun, interactive stories and songs and lots of giggles with a Caribbean flair, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person or take advantage of our special family rate of \$24 (includes 2 adults and up to three children; \$4 per additional child). What makes a great story-teller? Miss Jen Jen will be sharing her story-telling skills on November 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Patio Room. Cost of workshop is \$49 and includes ticket to the evening event. Teens and adults only for the workshop, please. Registration for this workshop is required ([online www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org); deadline is November 1). Contact Cathy Costa for advance tickets and information, (727) 235-7228.

## Events in November and Beyond (continued)

### Farmworkers' Support Witness and Lunch, November 14

See the Economic Justice article of Social Justice News on page 4 for details. Support Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, November 17

Please join area congregations (UU, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Unity) to celebrate and give thanks Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The service will be held at Unity Church of Clearwater (across the street from UUC). Please bring a can of food to donate to the Religious Community Services' Food Pantry. A special love offering will be received to support the Food Pantry. The service will feature area Interfaith Leaders, UUC Chorale, Unity Choir, and others.

### Steiner Circum Studies Seminar, Continues November 19

Steiner Circum Studies began October 22 and continues Thursday nights 7:00 p.m. in the Westwood Room on November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18, and March 18. Steiner Circum Studies is an ongoing seminar on the philosophical, spiritual, and scientific contributions of Dr. Rudolf Steiner, founder *inter alia* of the Waldorf Schools. We will focus on his careful explication of the contributions of twelve European mystics as put forth in his book, *Mystics After Modernism*. The seminar is open all. No prior experience of these subjects is necessary. The seminar will be led by Stephen D. Salamone, Ph.D., formerly Chairman of the Classical Studies Department at Boston University. There may be a modest cost for materials.

### Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, November 26

Holding a Thanksgiving Day UUC family potluck dinner has become a tradition. Being mindful of UU's Seventh Tradition 'respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,' we would like to celebrate the occasion with an emphasis on wholesome food and reusable tableware, keeping packaging and trash to a minimum. Working together to prepare and serve the food and to clean up afterwards will be an expectation for all who attend. Participation is what creates community. We will have an In-Gathering at 2:30 p.m. with dinner at 3:00 pm in the Social Hall. **Tickets will be for sale Sundays in November in the Social Hall after Worship Services. If you bring a dish to serve eight to ten people, the charge will be \$3.00; without a dish, \$10.00. No one will be served without a ticket.** Volunteers are needed to help with sign-up and ticket sales. Start thinking about what food you will contribute, and how you can join in making this the best UUC community dinner ever! For more information and/or volunteer, contact Dotti "Green Jeans" at (813) 842-0474 or Helga the Hostess at (727) 418-2239.



### PSI, November 29

November 29 – Patricia Fogelsonger and Bruce Stewart will discuss channeling, mediumship and transition to “the new reality.”  
December 27 – We will show the 1-hour DVD "Conversations About Oneness," starring Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee and his son.

### Women's Night Out, December 3

See November 5 for more information about this group. December's meeting place at 7:00 p.m. is The Thirsty Marlin, located in Historic Downtown Palm Harbor, at 1023 Florida Avenue ([www.thirstymarlin.com](http://www.thirstymarlin.com)) **Please RSVP by November 30 to Kathy Rosenberger, (727) 787-0636, [kathyrosenberger@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kathyrosenberger@tampabay.rr.com).**

### Sixth Annual West Central Cluster Holiday Service, December 10

UU Holiday Radio Special! Our Ultra Low Power Radio Station will broadcast once again within the walls of the Tarpon Springs Unitarian Universalist beginning at 7:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs, 230 Grand Blvd. A Holiday Celebration like No Other! Featuring Joyful Music of the Season, the Famous Cluster Players. Surprises Galore! Bring socks and underwear for children. Bring a Holiday Treat to Share. Childcare provided.

### Holiday Bake Sale, December 13

For this Fun, Festive Fundraiser, everyone is invited to create and bring in their favorite home made goodies. Put the date on your calendar and start thinking about your favorite recipes to share with the congregation like cakes, cookies, pies, breads, brownies, jams, etc. Pack the items in small, air tight plastic bags tied with a colorful ribbon and **bring them** to the Social Hall Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or Sunday, December 13 from 8:00 am on. These delicious goodies will then be sold in the Social Hall after worship ser-



## Events in November and Beyond (continued)

vices on Sunday, December 13. This day is also an opportunity for easy, reasonable, holiday shopping for you for gifts for your family, teachers, friends, and neighbors. Help is needed with selling and packing on the morning of sale, December 13. Contact Anneliese Ekberg (727) 531-2219 or donek97@verizon.net

### SWIM, December 26 to January 1

SWIM – Southeast Winter Institute in Miami -Join us at Camp Owaissa Bauer for a week of fun, fellowship and worship between Christmas and New Years Day. Enjoy a low-cost vacation in the South Florida sun with like-minded UUs and kindred spirits. Choose from a wide variety of workshops to relax, reflect and stimulate your mind. Outdoor adventures feature the unique beauty of the Florida Everglades and range from strenuous to relaxing. We provide special programs for children, teens and young adults. Dec 26 – Jan 1. Great news! The price of SWIM has dropped by \$25 for adults from last year. And the price for children and teens is also lower. Adults \$425, Teens \$298, Children \$194. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.swimuu.org/Home.html>

### U.S. Chapter IARF Conference at UUC, January 14-17, 2010

Three Reasons YOU might want to know NOW about the IARF Conference: (1) By volunteering to do what you love to do, you will help generate a little income for UUC as the host for this event. (Volunteers are needed to serve meals, work at wine & cheese receptions, home host, transport, help with registration, and on-site last-minute whatever needs to be done people). (2) You can register now to hear amazing speakers from around the world and interact with people from other faiths in our community. Early bird registration will save you \$25. (3) By helping spread the word now, we can be sure that others we know who may be interested in religious freedom and reconciliation will have a chance to attend.

Here's a bit of information about the Conference: 'Reconciliation with the Earth, Each Other and the Stranger'

U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), January 14 – 17, 2010. Some of the speakers and presenters are: ► Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, former President of the U.S. Chapter of IARF; ► Mr. Thomas Mathew, IARF Council President from India; ► Dr. Paul Rasor, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Director of the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College; author of *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century*; ► Dr. William Schulz, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress in D.C.; former E.D. of Amnesty International USA; former UUA President; author of *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defining Human Rights Benefits All of Us* and *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights*; ► Dr. Hal French, Preston Emeritus Professor of the University of South Carolina, Dept. of Religious Studies; serves on advisory boards of International Center in Oxford, England and the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN); author of *Zen and the Art of Anything*; ► Rev. Jopie Boeke (U.K) and Kathy Matsui (Japan) from the International Association of Liberal Religious Women. (IALRW); ► Dr. Mozella Mitchell, University of South Florida, re: racial reconciliation; ► Irene Keim, UU Ministry for Earth

We will have all the conference information on our UUC website by early November (schedule, fees, registration info & form, volunteer information and form, etc.) You can also contact Denise Seeber at (727) 474-2647 or Denise\_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com for information including hard copies and PDF files with all the conference information. Denise and others will be available after service in the Social Hall for the next few weeks.

### All Congregation Retreat, March 12-14, 2010

Remember to mark your 2010 Calendars for UUC's first "All-Congregation Retreat" at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia, FL which is about an hour away. To get a preview of the potential this facility promises go to: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org)



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### Octagram Editor, Nancy Warner, Resigns

Yes, after over four years of putting the *Octagram* together I am resigning. The next issue is my last issue. It's time to allow someone else's talents to shine in this very important and visible role at UUC, someone with fresh, new ideas. Learn the current process, or reinvent it. There's talk of going all online, so who knows.....If interested, please call me at (727) 791-8703 or (727) 744-7975 cell, or email [warner0806@aol.com](mailto:warner0806@aol.com), or contact Sue Boone, UUC President, (727) 531-5236.

Sincerely, Nancy **New Editors Needed! More than one will be easy on everyone!**



2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater, FL 33764

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

# OCTAGRAM

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

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**Karen Roeder**  
**Karen Roeder**  
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**Linda Jones**  
**Janine Tompkins**  
**Nancy Warner**

**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  
Jenn Bouchie 470-9422  
Pat McGiverin 771-1529  
Lucille Odeneal 743-1304  
Eliseo Santana 366-7106  
Hal Sparks (813) 961-3898 chair

*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email to  
Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline for each  
month's issue is midnight of the third Sunday of the  
month prior to the month of issue.*

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

*Visit: [www.uuclearwater.org](http://www.uuclearwater.org)*