



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

Where Seekers Find a Home

## OCTAGRAM

OCTOBER 2009

Book Sale



Oct 24

### Greetings from Dr. David Katz and Rev. Nicholas Ozuna

Dear Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater:

I have decided to write you an open letter to introduce myself. My name is David Katz and I am grateful to have been chosen as your new music director.



As an individual coming into a new church position, there is both excitement and apprehension present. In the former I ask, "What wonderful new ideas can I bring to a church community?" "What quality programs and procedures are already in place that I want to continue to help foster and nourish?" As for the latter I ask, "Will I be liked and accepted into this new community?" "Is there flexibility for growing a vibrant future or is the congregation content with the comforts of the past?"

Though I have only been here for a short time, much excitement has continued to build in my heart and much of my apprehension has been put to rest. I feel I am entrenched in a community which both celebrates its past but looks forward to a brighter future as well.

To that end, I hope I can serve you in ways that have both been effective in your past but will also propel you to a glorious future. I hope to help create a worshipful community where music is embraced by all and is celebrated in a very personal and perhaps somewhat diverse way. I hope to embrace all members of our community: adults and children, white and black, gay and straight and yes, even Democrat and Republican!!



Music can be such a powerful, beautiful thing. It expresses the incomprehensible and leaves us in awe. I have devoted

my life to a path of attempting to create beautiful music and artistry. Coupled with the power of worship, music is an unstoppable force upon a great journey.

I hope you will consider joining me on that journey.



*Blessed be, Dr. David Katz*

### New Chances

The Buddha teaches that all phenomena are the result of necessary and appropriate causes and conditions. In reality, our current condition could not possibly be better! This is because we are constantly being guided to the truth of reality. Even if we were to stumble upon a perceivably negative experience or misfortune, this too could be viewed as a blessing from the Buddha. The problem is that it's hard to see things that way.



The last few months I have painstakingly prepared for my transition from Japan back to the U.S., and more specifically here to Clearwater, Florida. Though I faced multiple challenges in arriving here, I feel as though I been given a great mission to serve as an intern for the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater and develop a Rissho Kosei-kai branch for the Tampa Bay area.

There were a swarm of uncertainties buzzing in my mind about how such an endeavor could be undertaken, or even if it were possible. Just days before I moved from San Antonio,

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Texas, I was stricken with a severe case of strep throat which left me weakened and bed-ridden. This all could have been seen as a bad men. However, because I was in bed and had so much time on my hands, I had a great chance to do some deep self-reflection, and I could see even this illness as a message from the Buddha. The message was apparent that what awaited me in Clearwater was work of great importance and should not be taken lightly, even though I would appear to be in paradise. I recalled my bodhisattva vow to endure endlessly in the pursuit of spreading the dharma through whatever means necessary. This was enough motivation for me to recover quickly and make my way towards a new life in Florida.



Growing up in Texas as a Hispanic, becoming aware that I was Buddhist in high school, studying zoology in college, and moving to Japan to enter seminary, I feel I have always been the minority following the path less taken. However, this is something that gives me pride. It is because I know deep in my heart that this path is and always has been a mission for me to see things as they are a means of developing wisdom and compassion under even the most difficult of conditions. Coming to Clearwater to serve as an intern for the UUC is no exception. I believe I am now in the absolute best possible place for me at this time in my life and I am wholeheartedly grateful for the many new chances that I have already received, those that await me, and those that have made this opportunity possible. I see a journey full of wonderful encounters and positive learning experiences and I am ready to devote all of my energy towards this sacred mission.

—Rev. Nick Ozuna

## Making Tracks with Rev. Bill

As you may come to realize as you get to know me, I am an unlikely person to be instructing people on the importance of having fun, as what I do in spare time that I call fun would probably seem slow and tedious to most people. But what I do for what I think passes for fun does not mean that I do not understand the importance of fun and its particular importance in the life of a congregation. Therefore I want to tell you about two ways of having fun I am promoting and supporting.

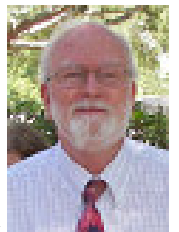


The first I want to make sure you get on your calendars now even though it is over five months away on March 12-14, 2010. This is the date for UUC's All Congregation Retreat at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia, FL,

near Tampa about an hour away. Here is their link: <http://www.cedarkirk.org/>. Please visit this website and look at the possibilities. Now that a site for such an adventure has been identified, I will be looking for people to help plan this weekend. People that have experienced this kind of experience in previous congregations will understand the potential of this and could be most helpful in planning our time there as well as helping with administrative things like registration and publicity.

Cost wise, this was the best facility I could find. I realize however that for a family of four the price will be about \$300, which does include meals. Between now and March, several RE lunches are planned to raise money to create a Scholarship Fund to help support as many people as possible participate, plus we will have a place on the registration forms for people contribute

to this Scholarship Fund. You will notice that cabins are not the only option for those who prefer a less rustic sleeping arrangement. Cedarkirk has also agreed to work with us to help provide vegetarian and vegan menu choices.



Right now I hope you will simply reserve this late Friday afternoon to Sunday morning block of time and then stay tuned in for details about what this weekend will look like, keeping in mind that your time and ideas will help shape this experience. Remember this is for everybody. Talk to me, please!

This past Sunday, I mentioned that my congregation in Virginia had three softball teams and I bet UUC could support at least



one. I love baseball and am a pretty good student of the game and I know that the five important skills a player can have are the ability to hit, to hit with power, and to be able to run, throw and field well. These are the marks of an all-round player. I possess none of these! But I know some of you have some of these if not all five and love to "play ball." I bet there are enough of women and men to field a team. Ches

Applewhite has agreed to act as the point of contact to hear from you if you are interested in getting a team organized. Please contact her at [ches@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ches@tampabay.rr.com) and oil your gloves.

**See you in church!  
Bill**

# Random Reflections



Just the other day, I got asked that dreaded question again: "If you don't have a creed or a doctrine, what is it that holds you all together?" As usual, I fumbled for an answer. I mumbled something about freedom, reason, acceptance, and love. And from the look on the

person's face, I knew I had flubbed it.

So, what does hold us together? What's the glue? What's the center? In the words of Bill Schulz, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), "This is the mission of our faith: To teach the fragile art of hospitality, To revere both the critical mind and the generous heart; To prove that diversity need not mean divisiveness; And to witness to all that we must hold the whole world in our hands."

What holds us together? Our Principles and Purposes are a part of the UUA's bylaws. They are not a creed, not a doctrinal statement, not a personal theology, but a statement of ethical

principles that remind us that member UU congregations have a common approach to religion.

What holds us together? In the words of the Rev. Alice Blair Wesley, "This is the spirit of our people. It is holy to us, this walking together. It holds us all...insofar as we live by it, in the embrace of the free church, in the generous embrace of people who are centered—in ever changing and responsively creative ways—around a promise of searching for and daring to live by truth."

What holds us together? Here is what I think: We covenant to walk together as a religious community, in freedom and love searching for meaning and truth in life; to have an open mind and a caring heart; and to work together to repair and heal a broken world. Walking together; working together; loving alike even if we do not think or believe or act alike. This is our heritage. This is our history. This is what holds us together. That is what we try to do together as members and friends of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater.

*In faith and fellowship,  
Abhi Janamanchi*

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## In Memoriam, Rev. Dr. Forrest Church (1948-2009)

I am deeply saddened to share with you the death of a beloved friend and mentor, the Rev. Dr. Forrest Church. Forrest died yesterday (Thursday, September 24) evening after a three-year struggle with esophageal cancer. Forrest's writings on religion, politics, and the separation of church and state had a deep impact on my personal theology and worldview; he inspired me to take my faith into the world and be an unapologetic UU evangelist. He mentored me during the early years of my ministry when I was struggling to find my bearings and place in this faith. He shared with me his own struggles when he started out at All Souls and reassured me that the struggle was an integral part of the journey and that all will be well. Yesterday, as I was headed to church for the 'Pathways to Membership' class, I witnessed a double rainbow. Immediately and for no reason, I felt a deep sense of gladness and peace. Then later during class, I brought up Forrest's book *Love and Death* and talked about his insights on life, death, and love. This morning, I learned of his passing. Last night, Forrest was with me in spirit guiding and inspiring me as he always did.



In his book *Love and Death: My Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow*, Forrest reminds us: Death is central to my definition of religion: religion is our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die. We are not the animal with advanced language or tools as much as we are the religious animal. Knowing that we must die, we question what life means. The answers we arrive at may not be religious answers, but the questions death forces us to ask are, at heart, religious questions. Where did I come from? Who am I? Where am I going? What is life's purpose? What does all this mean? All of these questions obviously have special urgency for me now that I have been told I have only months left in my life. Hearing word of my diagnosis of terminal cancer, a longtime parishioner, who has known her full share of death, wrote me of her heartache. "My heart has been broken again," Camille wrote, "and for that I am overwhelmingly thankful; without love this would not be possible." She had it just right. And she and others in my congregation made me think that I needed to write one last book, one that would consolidate my thoughts on love and death. Fighting the most convincing deadline of my life, I none-the-less experienced great joy writing *Love & Death*. I discovered, in confronting my diagnosis, that death is not life's goal, only life's terminus. The goal is to live in such a way that our lives will prove worth dying for. This is where love comes into the picture. The one thing that can't be taken from us, even by death, is the love we give away before we go."

*And I say, "So it is. So be it. I love you."  
In faith and love, Abhi Janamanchi*

The Social Justice Council is in the fast mode; meeting, planning, organizing and doing.  
**The next Council meeting is October 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Westwood Room.**

## Human Rights – Allison Snell, Team Leader

Attending Peace events, Health Care Insurance Reform meetings and GLBT functions is keeping this group busy. After a long wait, thanks to Allison and several donors, we have a beautiful new “Welcoming Congregation” banner in the Sanctuary Alcove. Check it out. On October 11 we are celebrating National Coming Out Day by joining with Unity for a special program. (See page 13 and read the Weekly Bulletin for more details.) Ann Myers our UU Service Committee Representative is keeping us abreast of UUSC’s activities and planning events. And lastly, a new Racial Concerns subcommittee is in the process of forming.



## Environmental Justice – Dotti Doyle, Team Leader

Working toward UUC achieving the UUA designation of being a “Green Sanctuary” this Team has already done the following: received a Progress Energy report, planned environmental films for the future, conducted two services based on environmental issues, included the RE children in an Earth Day celebration, planted trees on UUC grounds and changed all exit signs in the Sanctuary to LEDs. Dotti also has instituted Green Tips of the Week in the Weekly Bulletin. They are actively discussing a community garden and many other projects. Watch for updates in next months Octagram and remember to “**Think Green.**”

## Economic Justice — Linda Stoller, Team Leader

As hurricane season comes to a close we remember the horror of four years ago—hurricane Katrina. After the hurricane many promises were made to the people of New Orleans but four years later there remains much to do. This year Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren has introduced H.R. 2269, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act. Passage of this bill will establish the Gulf Coast Civic Works Commission to coordinate multiple recovery projects, rebuilds key infrastructure, and revitalizes the region’s workforce. The bill requires accountability through community oversight and participation in all recovery projects. Many members signed a petition in support of this legislation on the anniversary of hurricane Katrina. If you didn’t have an opportunity to sign the petition and want to support this bill please contact your congressman.

We have some good news to share! The “East Coast Growers and Packers”, one of Florida’s largest tomato growers have agreed to work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and the major buyers who have already signed fair Food Agreements with the CIW. This is a big breakthrough because until now the agreements signed by major fast food companies have not been able to be implemented due to opposition of the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange. Finally the farm workers will receive the increase of a penny per pound and will see better working conditions. However there is still work to be done. The campaign for fair food is continuing to encourage Publix supermarkets to support the penny per pound increase and endorse a stringent code of conduct against abuses in the



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field. During the month of October we will be increasing our efforts to get our local Publix Supermarkets to support the farm workers through the fair food campaign.

We continue to support health care reform. Thanks to all of you who signed letters to our local congressmen and senator, made calls, attended meetings and wrote letters to the editor. However we can't let up until we have affordable and accessible health care for all. Please continue to contact our legislators and don't forget our new senator, Senator George LeMieux. You can call at 1-866-279-5474.

A few more reminders.....Fair Trade tea and coffee is on sale the second Sunday of each month. Also remember to bring non perishable food for the RCS Food Bank on Sunday.



## Split the Plate, October 11

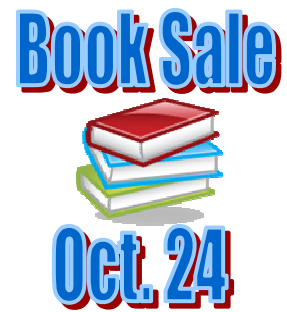


Religious Community Services (RCS) Food Bank received a check for \$522 for the September Split the Plate. Thank you for your donations. The October Split the Plate recipient is Metropolitan Charities, Inc of St. Petersburg. Metro Charities is committed to providing premier HIV services, counseling, social networking, and other health and wellness programs that enhance the quality of life. They strive to promote a healthy environment for all and to foster diversity within the community as a whole, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. Please consider a generous contribution.



**Volunteer!** Join any of these Teams, get active, be a part of the change we are making.

**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.



Rev. Nick Ozuna and Rev. Leddy Hammock (guest minister from Unity)



Rev. Bill Welch with musicians Peter Goldhammer and Van Fenstermaker

A prayer ceremony was held at the Peace Pole after worship services on September 20 to commemorate International Peace Day (September 21).

## Above & Beyond Honoree for October

Linda Carroll is this month's honoree for the Above and Beyond Award, selected by the UUC Board of Trustees for her wonderful work during the summer. Linda was very busy. In addition to serving as acting chair of the Music Committee (Chair Max Shimer was out of town most of the summer), Linda participated in the search process for our new music director. The very successful search led us to the hiring of David Katz for the position. And while she was doing all of that, Linda organized and directed a big work project to sort and package up printed music that was left at UUC by the UU Musicians Network conference in 2007. Many boxes of music had to be sorted and sent back to the publisher. Thank you, Linda, for your dedication to the outstanding UUC music program we all enjoy and appreciate very much.



**Congratulations, Linda Carroll!**

## Fiscal Year Off To Good Start

For the first three months (June through August) of Fiscal Year 2010, UUC is in a good position. Revenues are up and expenses are down. So far this year, our pledge revenue is about 4% ahead of budget and total revenue is \$3,000 or 3% ahead. Great thanks to those of you who paid ahead on your pledges. That was very helpful.

On the expense side, we spent less than budget by more than \$8,000 or 8%. This was due to the summer calm, of course, but also hard work by John Chase and the Property Committee in keeping our electricity expense more than 14% below budget.

For the first three months we had an operating surplus of just over \$6,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$5,000. Offsetting this positive result slightly was a \$2,000 expenditure for air conditioning repairs that was taken out of our A/C Reserve Fund. We paid an annual flood insurance premium of \$2,700 and contributions of about \$2,700 were also made from Social Justice Funds.

The net result is that our cash balance went down by about \$5,000 to approximately \$54,000 during the first three months of the fiscal year. Full financial reports are available to all UUC members. If you have any questions, please contact me, the Treasurer.

— *Bill Norsworthy, Treasurer*

## UUA Trustee Tidbits — Focus on Youth Ministry

Perhaps you are feeling cooler, crisper weather where you are in our beloved District but it remains mighty hot in humid in Tampa. Luckily, as this column is being written we have been experiencing a quiet “h” season. Let it continue to be so. Many of you realize there have been some major transitions in our ministry to youth and young adults, following the 2007 Summit on Youth Ministry and the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth. Both of these events can be found by linking to them on our UUA web site. The re-organization at our UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult ministries, the topic of this month’s writing.

The UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries exists to support all UU youth and young adults. It is a part of the Lifespan Faith Development staff group, and helps support the development of curricula and resources for lay and professional religious educators. One of the more prominent resources is *Our Whole Lives*, the sexuality education curriculum. The Youth Ministries Office also supports multi-faceted ministry through the Chrysalis Training Program, General Assembly Youth Caucus, advocacy for the needs of youth in our faith, and consultation on youth programming.

Part of the mission of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is to advocate, educate, train, and develop resources for those involved in campus ministry. Often young adults face educational and career choices, relationship and family issues, and sometimes just the struggle of living life independently. The Office wants to support and help these young adults to feel at home within our young adult movement and help build a vibrant, sustainable, and accountable community. If your congregation is near a higher learning institution, please consider developing a campus ministry initiative there.

As a faith it will be difficult for us to survive if we do not grow and nurture our children, youth, and young adults. For further information and assistance you can contact Erik B. Kesting, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at [ekesting@uua.org](mailto:ekesting@uua.org), Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings, Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color at [mcummings@uua.org](mailto:mcummings@uua.org), or Nancy DiGiovanni, Bridging and Campus Ministry and Associate at [ndigiovanni@uua.org](mailto:ndigiovanni@uua.org). Of course you may always contact me at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or (813) 931-9727 with your UUA thoughts and concerns. Happy Halloween to one and all.

— *Joan Lund, Trustee*

## Office Administrator, Yvonne Charneskey, Resigns

After three years of working tirelessly to get the UUC office into shape, Yvonne has resigned to work full-time (instead of just part-time) for VonHenry Productions, Inc., the videography, photography, and music production company that she and her husband Hank own. The business is growing, and with Yvonne's full-time devotion, it can only get better! Her last day here was Friday, September 25, and we gave her a little farewell party in the Westwood room. We will miss her in the office, but she and Hank will still be participating in many activities here at UUC. And thank you both for all your videography work to benefit UUC also!



**Best of Luck,  
Yvonne and Hank,  
with all your  
endeavors!**



Dearest UUC Family,

For all your cards, all your e-mails, all your calls, all your support, all your candles, all your light, all your positive energy, all your love, thank you.

I am overwhelmed by the love. My beloved knew I had you all to help me through. He told Rev. Ahbi at our home on the day Bill was told his time was very limited, "Peggy has her church. I know you all will take care of her. She loves you all so. She will need you."

Need you I have, and there you have been.

Thank you all.  
Love, Peggy Tanney

## Octagram Editor, Nancy Warner, Resigns also!

Yes, after over four years of putting the *Octagram* together (having substitutes for only 5 issues while on vacation), I am resigning. 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.

I'll continue throughout 2009. So please, there is plenty of time to learn the 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.

Sincerely, Nancy **New Editor Needed!**

## Grounds Work Party Dressed Up the Place

On a warm Saturday morning in early September, more than twenty UUC members came out to help beautify our grounds and within a few hours, they did just that. You have probably noticed that many of the trees were trimmed and the fresh mulch in the front area, but you may not have noticed that the ceiling of the portico was pressure washed, the Memorial Garden was weeded and trimmed, the pond was cleaned, and most of the bushes were trimmed, as well. Many thanks to all of those who participated: Ches Applewhite, Sue Boone, Jenn and Matt Bouchie, Jackie Brown, Ray Clayton, Diana Fraser, Earl Kendall, Earl Kipka, Sheila Knaust, Bob Lehner, Ashlynn Maher, Sumi Mazzorollo, Bill Newton, Bill Norsworthy, Joanne Osburn, Rose Peal, Chuck and Jeannie Shimer, Greg Smith, Owen Thompson, Janine Tompkins and Joanne Van Den Heuvel.



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

- October 4**     **Ray Clayton**             **Egypt Through a Bus Window**
- October 11**   **Dorothy Wylie**         **Brainstorming Session on Future Topics and Speakers**
- October 18**     **Canceled due to Pancake Breakfast**
- October 25**     **Dr. Aisha Fields and Ironiff Ifoma, African Village Survival Initiative, present**  
**Economic Crisis in the U.S. and World: Perspective of the African Community from**  
**South St. Petersburg to West Africa**

—John Chase, (727) 787-3085

### Flowers Needed!

*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 Helga Reaves, 727-418-2239) or you may bring in your own arrangement. Forms available outside the church office allow us to co-ordinate contributions.*



## Worship Services — Sundays at 10:30 am

- October 4**             **Mahatma Gandhi:**                             **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**  
**The Story of His Transformation**

In commemoration of Gandhi's 140th birth anniversary, the service will explore his beliefs, his political campaigns, the evolution of his strategies of nonviolent resistance, and the continued relevance of his message.

Music by Students of the Taraana School of Indian Music will sing some of Mahatma Gandhi's favorite songs.

- October 11**             **Come Out On The Side of Love**                             **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**

Today is National Coming Out Day and the day of the National Equality March. As thousands come together in our nation's capitol and gather in homes and congregations around the country, we will lift our voices in word and song for marriage equality and GLBT rights. There will be a special ceremony after service to unveil the 'Standing on the Side of Love' banner on our front wall.

Today is Split the Plate Sunday for Metro Charities. Music by UUC Chorale and Linda Jones. Fair Trade coffee will be for sale in Social Hall after services.

- October 18**             **Going Beyond Creedlessness**                             **Rev. Abhi Janamanchi**

Is "creedlessness" an empty vessel in which anything can be put in? Or is it premised upon certain assumptions and understandings? Is it all process and no product? If Unitarian Universalism is to be a religion worthy of the name, it must provide a faith in substance and not just in style. On Bring-A-Friend-Sunday, we will explore the essence of a liberal religious faith.

Music by UUC Chorale and Linda Jones.

The UUC Men's group is providing a sumptuous pancake breakfast and entertainment starting at 9:00 am. Bring your friends, neighbors, and family!

- October 25**             **The State of Jones: A Story of Courage**                             **Rev. Bill Welch**  
**and Conscience from the War Between the States**

Newton Knight was an anti-slavery pro-Union Mississippian who together with other whites and blacks lead an insurrection against the Confederacy and whose personal integrity can inspire us over 140 years later.

# October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <a href="#">9:30 - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 - 11:30 AM Worship Svc (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM Psi (P)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM VM Rehearsal (O)</a> <a href="#">1:30 - 2:30 PM Non Violent Com. (E)</a> <a href="#">3:00 - 7:00 PM Moxy Women Rehearsal (O)</a>	<b>28</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">7:30 - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>29</b> <a href="#">12:00 - 12:30 PM Loving Kindness Meditation (O)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Sunday Srvc Com. (W)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Tech Team Training (SoundBooth)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 10:00 PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>30</b> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Chorale Practice</a>	<b>1</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Book Sorting (W)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Children's RE Com. (CL)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Pathways to Membership (P)</a>	<b>2</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">1:00 - 2:15 PM Adult RE Com. Mtg (W)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>3</b> <a href="#">9:30 - 11:30 AM Social Justice Com. (W)</a> <a href="#">3:30 - 6:00 PM Wedding (O)</a> <a href="#">6:00 - 7:00 PM UMD Rehearsal (O)</a>
<b>4</b> <a href="#">9:30 - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 - 11:30 AM Worship Svc (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM VM Rehearsal (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM Ways &amp; Means Committee (P)</a> <a href="#">1:30 - 2:30 PM Non Violent Communications (E)</a>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 8:30 PM Covenant Groups Facilitators Meeting (L)</a> <a href="#">7:30 - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>6</b> <a href="#">11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Membership Meeting (W)</a> <a href="#">12:00 - 12:30 PM Loving Kindness Med. (O)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 10:00 PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (Abhi's Office)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Chorale Practice</a>	<b>8</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Book Sorting (W)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Pathways to Membership (P)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 8:00 PM UMD Rehearsal (O)</a>	<b>9</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">5:00 - 10:00 PM Board of Trustees</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>10</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Board of Trustees (S,P)</a> <a href="#">10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Blessing of the Animals (Unity)</a> <a href="#">10:00 AM West Central Cluster Picnic (SOL)</a> <a href="#">4:00 PM - 6:00 PM UMD Setup</a> <a href="#">6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Universal Music Day (O,C,S)</a>
<b>11</b> <a href="#">8:30 AM - 1:30 PM Bloodmobile (Parking Lot)</a> <a href="#">9:30 - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 - 11:30 AM Worship Svc (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 1:00 PM Laughter Yoga (L)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM VM Rehearsal (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 1:30 PM Young Adult Covenant Group (P)</a> <a href="#">1:00 - 3:00 PM UU101 (C)</a> <a href="#">1:30 - 2:30 PM Non Violent Com. (E)</a> <a href="#">1:30 - 2:30 PM Stories of our Lives (Unity)</a>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">7:30 - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">12:00 - 12:30 PM Loving Kindness Med. (O)</a> <a href="#">1:00 - 4:00 PM Covenant Group Meeting (L)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 10:00 PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch with the Ministers (S)</a> <a href="#">5:30 - 6:30 PM Finance Committee (W)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Executive Committee (W)</a>	<b>15</b> <a href="#">9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Hang new Art (O)</a> <a href="#">2:00 - 4:00 PM Private Event (L)</a> <a href="#">4:00 - 7:00 PM Tae Kwon Do (S)</a>	<b>16</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Art Committee Reception (O)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Alternative to Violence (W)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Vagina Monologues (O)</a>
<b>18</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">Bring A Friend Sunday</a> <a href="#">9:00 - 10:30 AM Pancake Breakfast (S)</a> <a href="#">9:30 - 10:30 AM CANCELLED TODAY: Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 - 11:30 AM Worship Svc (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 1:00 PM Laughter Yoga (L)</a> <a href="#">1:00 - 2:00 PM Toning \$5 (L)</a> <a href="#">1:30 - 2:30 PM Non Violent Com. (E)</a>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">7:30 - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>20</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">12:00 - 12:30 PM Loving Kindness Med. (O)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 10:00 PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>21</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM UUC Board Meeting (P)</a>	<b>22</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">5:30 - 7:00 PM Picnic Philippine Park</a>	<b>23</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM BOOK SALE Wine &amp; Cheese Event (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (W)</a>	<b>24</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Alternative to Violence (W)</a> <a href="#">1:00 - 2:00 PM Piano Recital Setup (O)</a> <a href="#">2:00 - 4:00 PM Piano Recital (O)</a>
<b>25</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">9:30 - 10:30 AM Open Issues (P)</a> <a href="#">10:30 - 11:30 AM Worship Svc (O)</a> <a href="#">12:30 - 2:00 PM Psi (P)</a>	<b>26</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">9:30 AM Duplicate Bridge (P)</a> <a href="#">7:30 - 8:30 PM AA (P)</a>	<b>27</b> <a href="#">BOOK SALE (S,P,L)</a> <a href="#">12:00 - 12:30 PM Loving Kindness Med. (O)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Committee on Ministry (Abhi's office)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Bridge (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 10:00 PM UUBF (P)</a>	<b>28</b> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:30 PM Chorale Practice</a> <a href="#">8:30 - 10:30 PM Haunted House Prep Meetings (S)</a>	<b>29</b> <a href="#">8:30 - 10:30 PM Haunted House Prep Meetings (S)</a>	<b>30</b> <a href="#">10:00 - 11:30 AM Readers Forum (C)</a> <a href="#">7:00 - 9:00 PM Men's Night Out (CL)</a> <a href="#">7:00 PM Zen Meditation (L)</a>	<b>31</b> <a href="#">8:00 AM - 5:00 PM SETUP</a> <a href="#">Haunted House (S, RE Rooms)</a> <a href="#">5:30 - 8:00 PM Day of the Dead Celebration (S,P,ML,CL)</a>

## RE News

Hello Friends,

Our Religious Education program is a very important part of UUC. For our children and youth, it can be the heart of their spiritual development. Our RE program begins at **10:30 a.m.** On the first Sunday of every month, they have children's worship in the Social Hall. This is a time for the children to share with one another in a cozy atmosphere. The Middle and High School youth gather in their classrooms. On the remaining Sundays, the children and youth begin in the sanctuary (**sitting with their parents**) until called down to go to RE class.

Sunday mornings can be very hectic. As a parent, I know how difficult it can be to get your child up, ready, and out the door on Sunday morning. It's important to start off the morning right

with a good breakfast because only a light snack is provided at the end of class.

It's also important to arrive on time because late arrivals are very disruptive to the classroom environment. Encourage your child to arrive early so that they may have a few minutes to visit with friends beforehand.

Finally, I welcome any suggestions for how we can improve our Religious Education program. I want our children and youth to look forward to coming to UUC. Together we can make that happen.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Christine Pensa, RE Assistant, [christinepensa@att.net](mailto:christinepensa@att.net), or (727) 442-3028



### UUC Children's Choir Starting October 21

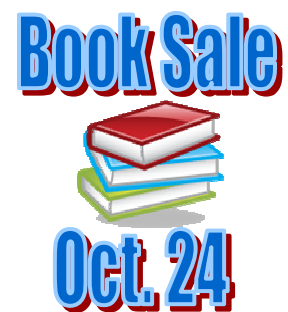
Children's Choir will be starting at UU Clearwater on Wednesday, October 21 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. All children in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate. **All interested parents and children should download and complete a letter and form by October 4.** Links to the letter may be found on the church homepage. Any questions? Contact David Katz at (941) 355-6319 or [katzmusicstudio@aol.com](mailto:katzmusicstudio@aol.com).

### Auditions for GA Children's Choir Held

There will be a select children's choir participating at the General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN from June 23-27, 2010. All children who will be 10, 11 or 12 years old during this time period are eligible to apply. If selected, children will participate in a five-day music camp which will culminate in a performance at General Assembly. Auditions to be selected from UU Clearwater to try out for the children's choir took place on Sunday, September 27, with David Katz.

## New Covenant Groups are Now Forming!

Throughout the month you can learn more about covenant groups or sign up to join a covenant group. Covenant groups are a way for us to forge deeper connections with a small group of our UU peers. Covenant groups are small groups that meet once a month to discuss topics of spiritual and personal importance. Each covenant group has a facilitator and the facilitators meet once a month to connect their group to the larger UUC community. You can get more information about signing up for a group or being a facilitator by contacting Tiffany Boggs at [puggirl417@gmail.com](mailto:puggirl417@gmail.com) or seeing Tiffany or Helga Reeves after the service on Sundays in the Social Hall during the month of October.



### Next Deadline October 20

*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email to [Octagram@uuclearwater.org](mailto:Octagram@uuclearwater.org).  
Deadline is midnight of the third Sunday of every month. For November issue, deadline is October 18, 2009.*

# UU Buddhist Fellowship of Tampa Bay at Clearwater

## Tibetan Buddhist Medical Doctor Visit, October 27 and November 3 And Outstanding Films, October 6, 13, 20

### Dr. Barry Clark to Visit



The UUBF at UU Clearwater is pleased to announce a special visit of a most uniquely qualified healer to our meetings, Dr. Barry Clark, Tibetan Medical Doctor from New Zealand. Dr. Clark is a practitioner, scholar, translator of Tibetan Medicine who studied with most distinguished Tibetan doctors in India for 20 years. He will visit the Tampa Bay area in late October for lectures, workshops and private consultations. He is the only Westerner to have completed the full course of theoretical and clinical training of a traditional Tibetan doctor. Tibetan medicine is based on the Buddhist philosophical principles. Dr. Clark is British. He was graduated from the University of Exeter in Modern Languages. See <http://www.drbarryclark.com/> for details. Dr. Clark translated *The Quintessence Tantras of Tibetan Medicine* with Forward by H. H. the Dalai Lama.

Dr. Clark will be interviewed in person by Tammy Taylor on Our Greatest Hour Radio Show Friday October 23, Tan Talk 1340 AM. We have also arranged for him to be interviewed by Carol Roberts, MD on WMNF-FM radio 88.5 FM on Monday October 26, from 1-2 PM. **Dr. Clark will be a guest of the UU Buddhist Fellowship at UUC on Tuesdays, October 27 and November 3, at 7:00 p.m.** We request free will donation of \$15 per evening/\$25 in advance for both evenings if you can manage it without stress or discomfort. Dr. Clark is an itinerant Buddhist doctor and lives very modestly so we would like to make a contribution to his healing mission to help cover basic expenses.

### Outstanding Films

We will show extraordinary, personally touching films about Tibetan medical healing on October 6, 13 and 20 in the Patio Room at 7:00 p.m. These will prepare you for Dr. Clark's informative talks. A \$5 offering per film evening, to offset costs, will be appreciated.

For more information on the month's programs, contact True Dharma Frank Tedesco, Ph.D., (727) 391-1152; Cell: (727) 512-4805; [truedharma108@gmail.com](mailto:truedharma108@gmail.com); [www.truedharmaworks.org](http://www.truedharmaworks.org); [www.truedharma.org](http://www.truedharma.org) (Tibetan Medicine)

## Some Background on Universal Music Day



Some years ago, I heard a story about a 10 year old UU girl. She sent a dime to the UN with a plea to, "Do something for the children" and UNICEF was created. That "can do spirit" so inspired me, that when after a 17 year journey, I was struck by an idea I had to follow through. It was the day after Earth Day 2007 and I was thinking how far we have come as a nation in appreciation and awareness of the importance of taking care of the Earth.

Then it struck me, many still are not aware of the importance of Music, Music making and Musicians in our lives. We should do the same for them as the creators of Earth Day have done for the Earth. With the perspective of both being an unaware, non-musician for the first 45 years, to then reclaiming my voice and music making in the middle years, I felt called to be a spokesperson. Some say, "Our biggest losses can become our greatest gifts." For me life before and after music appreciation is like a

black and white, 3 x 5, still life photograph as compared to a Technicolor, big screen, full length motion picture. Others lives may be similarly enriched by this vision!

A group of us got together to create Universal Music Day (UMD)! We are now approaching the third annual event at UUC, hopefully at Omega where the seeds were planted 20 years ago and in upstate NY at the Fall Workshop for David Darling's and his group, Music For People (MFP). Several of the MFP graduates will be creating something in their states as well. Eventually, with your help, UMD will be a World Wide Sound Wave for Peace, Love, Joy and Justice. We are making history and we sincerely hope to have a major impact on the Universe in far less than the 39 years it has taken Earth Day. Please join us in supporting this history making event and mission in a way that feels comfortable to you: volunteer, give a donation, and certainly help us FILL the Octagon by being there to make a joyful noise, lift spirits and build community through Music!

Thank you so much!

*Susan Golden, (727) 804-4908*

## Events in October and Beyond

### Urban Dwellers Art Show, Continues through October 11

The Homeless Project - Urban Dwellers Art Show at the Octagon Arts Center, features paintings by Elayn Leopold. The men and women reflected in Elayn's project, represent the courageous individuals caught in difficult times and show the vastness and variety of the homeless community. Each portrait is an encounter with humanity, with each face hinting of its own secrets. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, and Sunday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Paintings are available for sale; contact Charlene Carnes, (727) 789-3536.

### Women's Night Out, October 1

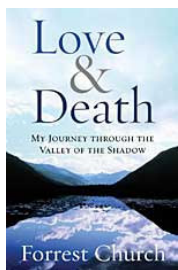
Attention: UUC Women. Are you interested in getting together occasionally without having to plan, schedule, clean, sell, cook or organize anything? If you would like to spend a little time just getting to know other UUC women for a bite to eat or a drink, please join us. We will be meeting the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at a restaurant to be announced. Our next night out is scheduled for Thursday, October 1. Reservations have been made at GrillSmith, 2539 Countryside Blvd. Suite 6, Clearwater, Florida 33761. The location is directly across from the Countryside Mall. **Please RSVP by September 29** to Martha Kowalski 727-475-9451, or email [mkowalski2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mkowalski2@tampabay.rr.com).



### Readers Forum, October 2

The Readers Forum begins for the autumn on Friday, October 2, and will meet each Friday, 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Chorale Room (located behind the sanctuary). This year, our leaders are John and Catherine Conover. All are welcome to join us for coffee and "book talk." We typically spend four to six weeks discussing each book. The cost is \$20, including the book, or \$5, if you already have the book. Books are available in the church office and at Friday sessions.

The first book we will read is *Love & Death: My Journey through the Valley of the Shadow* by Forrest Church, former Minister of Public Theology at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in New York City. It is an intimate and compelling work from a beloved minister facing his own imminent death. On a February day in 2008, Forrest Church sent a letter to the members of his congregation, informing them that he had terminal cancer; his life would now be measured in months, not years. In that remarkable letter, he wrote: "In more than one respect, I feel very lucky." He went on to promise that he would sum up his thoughts on the topics that had been so pervasive in his work—love and death—in a final book. Rev. Church has been justly celebrated as a writer of American history, but his works of spiritual guidance have been especially valued for their insight and inspiration. As a minister, Rev. Church defined religion as "our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die." The goal of life, he tells us "is to live in such a way that our lives will prove worth dying for." This last book is imbued with ideas for achieving that goal. The stories he offers, drawn from his own experiences and from the lives of his friends, family, and parishioners, are both engrossing and enlightening. Rev. Forrest Church's final work may be his most lasting gift to his readers.



### Ways and Means Organizational Meeting, October 4

Susan Hegner and Ann Myers are co-chairing the Ways and Means Committee and invite you to help create and support fund raising activities at UUC. They established one new ground rule on all projects suggested: PLEASE be willing to support the project by chairing it. This will give some assurance that the project will succeed, plus who knows more about the suggestion than its owner? Susan and Ann are willing to coordinate the project, and at times help you, but they cannot chair all of the different projects. You need to do that. And remember that our goal is to raise funds (cash!!!) for UUC. Community outreach activities are not within the scope of Ways and Means. The organizational meeting will be October 4 after the service at 12:30 p.m. in the Patio Room. We hope not to have many, if any, more meetings throughout the year. Most business can be conducted by e-mail as we did successfully last year. Please join Ways and Means!

### Membership Committee Meeting, October 6

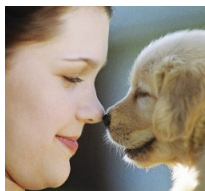
Westwood Room, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone welcome to attend.

—Mary Thornton, Chairperson



## Events in October and Beyond (continued)

### Interfaith Blessing for Animals, October 10



(Rain date October 17), 10:00 a.m. until noon. Animals of all faiths welcome in the parking lot of Unity Church opposite us on Nursery Road, co-sponsored by UUC and Dhamma Wheel Meditation Society. (Volunteers graciously welcomed and appreciate. Contact Terri Gary at Unity of Clearwater, 727-531-0992). The blessing of the animals is a community event to promote awareness of animal welfare as well as people and organizations who promote animal friendly products and services. What's Planned: Vendor exhibits; Donation drop for new or gently used pet toys, bedding, towels, unopened pet food & cat litter; Pet (and owner) photographs; A personal blessing for every animal attending; Face painting & earth friendly crafts.

### West Central Cluster Picnic, October 10

Join UUs from other area congregations for a picnic on Saturday starting at 11:00 a.m. This event is hosted by Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalists, 18412 Burrell Road, Odessa, Florida. Phone 813-792-1622. There will be dining beneath the beautiful Pavilion, a wonderful place for children; burgers, hot dogs drinks and paper goods provided; bring a Picnic dish to share; a drama will be presented by the Cluster Players.



### Universal Music Day, October 10

3rd Annual Universal Music Day Concert and Reception, Saturday, October 10, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., in the UUC Octagon Arts Center. This concert is free and open to the public; love offering welcomed. This is an inter-generational inclusive event so bring your friends. There will be 15 acts and many different styles of music making. For more information, go to [www.UniversalMusicDay.org](http://www.UniversalMusicDay.org)

### Bloodmobile Here in Honor of Florence Cohan-Austin, October 11

This past year, we lost Florence Cohan-Austin to cancer. Florence was one of our UUCare Bears, and though she was dealing with the effects of aggressive therapies, she never stopped helping and caring about others. She was very passionate about the work the Bloodmobile does, and the critical need for donors. She made me promise to bring Florida Blood Service's mobile unit to UUC at least once a year. In honor of Florence Cohan-Austin, the Bloodmobile will begin processing donors at 8:30 a.m. and will remain until at least 1:30 p.m. If you have never donated before, it will take a few more minutes for them to process your information.



—Jackie Brown, Chair, Cares & Concerns Committee

### National Coming Out Day, October 11

In celebration of "National Coming Out Day" UUC and Unity Church of Clearwater are co-sponsoring a "Stories of Our Lives" program co-facilitated by Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida and Robin Hankins, Executive Director of As I Am Institute, at Unity Church, Sunday, at 1:30 p.m. Members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender people and their family and friends will share powerful stories of coming out and overcoming prejudice. **If you have a story to share call Robin Hankins at (727) 224-9807.**

### Laughter Yoga, October 11

Come for a laugh after worship services in the Patio Room. FMI call Wendy Risk, (727) 572-9854.

### Introductory Alternatives to Violence Project Workshop, October 17

Have you been wondering what Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is all about? Now is your chance to find out first hand. Attend the AVP Exploratory Workshop on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Westwood Room of UUC. We live in a violent society and violence comes in many forms. Many are shocked by the increasing conflict on our streets, in our schools and in the home. See what AVP is doing to help us make a change...a change in the way we respond to violence, and in the way we initiate violence ourselves. Register to Darrell Hefte at [avp-tampabay.rr.com](http://avp-tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 799-0683 or Maryanne Hamilton at (727) 576-8985, or (727) 576-8985. *This workshop is co-sponsored by the UUC Social Justice Council.*

### Vagina Monologues, October 17

*Vagina Monologues* is a witty and honest play about women's attitudes towards themselves and their sexuality. Consists of a number of monologues based on actual interviews with women from different cultures and backgrounds, **this play will make a great fun**

## Events in October and Beyond (continued)

**evening for mature audiences.** The performance starts Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Octagon. Directed by Todd Olson, a UUC Friend and the Producing Artistic Director of American Stage Theatre Company. Stars a number of UUC church women. It is also a church fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door, on Sundays after the UUC service, and during the week in the UUC Office. Hors d'oeuvres and wine and beer (for a fee) will be served one hour before the performance. Childcare provided (with advance reservation for it.) Contact Charlotte Olson, (727) 596-7376, or email [mommycharlotte@aol.com](mailto:mommycharlotte@aol.com).

### Toning Workshop, October 18

Tones for Living is offered the third Sunday of each month, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the UUC Patio Room. Invite your friends. All are welcome. Sponsored by the PSI Symposium; presented by Elle Speed, a certified sound therapist and member of the Institute for Healing through Sound and Music.

### Pancake Breakfast, October 18

Enjoy a good feed from 9:00 to 10:15 am. And there will be entertainment to chew by from George Martin and grandson Scott and piano man Charlie Wheaton. Fee TBD. Sponsored by the Men's Group, they've got everything already under control. But if you are a guy and want to help, contact Paul Langrock at [plbrocker@yahoo.com](mailto:plbrocker@yahoo.com).



### Philippe Park Picnic, October 22

Bring a dish and join your UUC friends at Philippe Park 5:30-7:00 pm (enter park, turn right, park on left, and look for a familiar face at the picnic benches along the waterfront). FMI contact Marianne Davis, (727) 734-9136.

### Sixth Annual **Book Sale**, October 24 (with Preview, October 23)



Books galore on everything from Animals to Women's Studies can be found at this book sale, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. All proceeds benefit the UUC. Needed are volunteers, books, CD's, DVD's, and flats. **Flats are desperately needed.** Costco and Sam's Club are the best sources for these. Sign up on Sundays in the Social hall to help before, during and after the sale. Those who help set up (October 21 - 23) get the first look at the books! **Please continue to bring in your gently used Books, CDs, and DVDs and leave them in the Octagon lobby by October 19.** And there's a Preview Wine and Cheese Party Friday night, October 23, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for UUC members and guests. This is your chance to buy books before the general public does.

—*Kyle Pierson, Chair, [kyle@planetpierson.com](mailto:kyle@planetpierson.com), (727) 347-6050*

### PSI Symposium, October 25

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

► **October 25** – Rev. Bob Johnstone, Spiritualist Medium, will teach us about Butterfly Art.

► **November 29** – Patricia Fogelsonger and Bruce Stewart will discuss channeling, mediumship and transition to “the new reality.” Rev. Patricia is a spiritual teacher and channeling facilitator, a certified intuitive and medium and a spirit-inspired mandala artist, specializing in soul mission readings and business soul mandalas. Rev. Bruce is a channeling facilitator and medium, and author of the book *The True Light Cometh*. He offers personal channeling coaching sessions as well as group channeling instruction.

► **December 27** – We will show the 1-hour DVD "Conversations about Oneness," starring Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee and his son.

### Dia De Los Muertos Festival, Halloween Night, October 31

UUC is hosting the first annual Dia De Los Muertos Festival this year, Halloween night, by incorporating different religions and paying homage to our ancestors in a way that people of all faiths can join in. The festival will begin with a family friendly event on our playground with games, prizes, food and drinks Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. At 7:30, we will begin our "Trunk or Treat" in the parking lot where anyone who wants to participate can park in a special section of our parking lot to pass out candy to all of the kids that come by in costume! We will also have an altar set up in the social hall where we encourage people of all faiths to bring pictures, keepsakes and non-perishable food to celebrate our lost loved ones and to pay tribute. The food will later be donated to the RCS Food Bank in memory of those who have gone before us. Don't forget to bring a poem, a joke or



## Events in October and Beyond (continued)

your favorite story to share at our open mike! From 8:00 to 10:00 p.m, the family festival and altar will close and we will begin our very scary Haunted House!! All people 13 years and older are welcome to tempt fate and bring a mate! Throughout the entire festival we will have donation boxes for all different causes (e.g., Hospice, UNICEF, etc.) so bring your pennies! The Day of the Dead is a celebration of life and when we remember our dead, we bring them back to us! Please contact Cassandra Alderman at 727-224-9504 or email her at [cassandra@artcontempo.com](mailto:cassandra@artcontempo.com) with any questions or desire to help!

### Women's Night Out, November 5

See October 1 for more information about this group. November's meeting place at 7:00 p.m. is the Pub Waterfront Restaurant and Lounge, 20025 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, FL 33785. **Please RSVP by November 2** to [Denise\\_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Denise_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 474-2647

### Holiday Bake Sale, December 13

Mark your calendars now for this fun festive fundraiser and hone your baking talents to make irresistible concoctions! (You don't have to have the skills of Julia Child, but go see the movie "Julie and Julia" first and buy a cookbook at our book sale; then decide what you will bring as your contribution!)



### 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

"Reconciliation with the Earth, Each Other and the Stranger" is the title of the conference of the U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) at UUC. Plan to register for the conference or volunteer to help (and attend the conference for no or reduced registration fees). We will need volunteers for home hospitality, greeters, transporters, servers, etc. Please



note: this conference will provide a little revenue for UUC, so your volunteer time and efforts will be an investment in our congregation. Special speakers will be: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, former President of the U.S. Chapter of IARF; Mr. Thomas Mathew, IARF Council President from India; Dr. Paul Rasor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College; Dr. William Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA and former UUA President; Dr. Hal French, former Professor of Comparative Religion

and author of *Zen and the Art of Anything*. In addition to great speakers, there will be workshops, panel discussions, social times to meet other UUs and people of other faiths from our community and beyond and lots of food. **Please contact Denise Seeber at [Denise\\_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Denise_Seeber@tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 474-2647 if you might be able to help or would like more information.**

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

Rev. Bill wants to make sure that we have plenty of opportunities to just have fun! So he has arranged for a retreat for all of us at the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center near Tampa. Please refer to his article on page 2 for more information.

### European River Cruise, Spring 2010

Some of the members of the UU Fellowship of Marion County intend to take a European River Cruise next spring. We hope some of you will want to join us. Details are available on the Eastern European Odyssey and the Rhine Getaway from Carolyn Denison, (800) 541-4682, or from the travel agent, Peggy Sweet, at (800) 393-8728.



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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**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:

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*Please send OCTAGRAM submissions by email to  
Octagram@uuclearwater.org. Deadline is midnight  
of the third Sunday of every month. For November  
issue, deadline is October 18, 2009.*

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

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