Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee

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Every Sunday:

9:00 AM zen TAO Buddhist Sangha (Will meet at Lake Ella April 6 only.)

9:45 AM Choir Practice

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM

11:00 AM Youth RE classes for Pre-K - middle school.

April 6: Community Clean-Up

6 PM Youth Group for ages 12 -20.

Scheduled Adult Forum Topics:

April 20: St. Joe Co. & the Great Northwest, Speaker TBA

The Meridian

April Sundays (11:00 AM)

REMINDER: Daylight Savings Time Begins 4/6



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The Pursuit of Happi-ness April 6

In an ideal world, what might the American Society look like in 2013? How can we begin to get from where we are to where we want to be? To answer this question we will take off our cynical "this-is-it" hats and put on our creative "what-could-be" hats. The specific concept that we will explore together is the subtle but profound difference between building an interdependent international society and building an interconnected one. In a time of what appears to be great international and national turmoil, our world is actually far more organized and has a greater potential for building peace than ever before. Why are we not moving toward peace? Is it because we do not believe in a different future or because we cannot imagine it? University UUs, with Pippin Whitaker as Speaker

The Faith of an Emperor April 13

The emperor in question is Asoka, the time is the 3rd century b.c.e. (pre-zero), the place is India, and the faith is Buddhism. However, I remembered Asoka in contrast to our present President and his faith. How might it come across in imperial edicts? We'll recognize new members and share candles of joy, sorrow and concern today.

Rev. Amy McKenzie

The Need For Beauty, Intergenerational Flower Communion April 20

This yearly ritual to celebrate the renewal of spring and affirm life over death was first led by a Unitarian minister in Prague, Rev. Norbert Chapek. He wanted to show the beauty of, and the unity in, the diverse congregation he served – with Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Agnostic people. Bring one cut flower (with non-thorny stem) for each member of your family; you'll go home with the same people but with different flowers. Youth will collect the flowers, light and extinguish the chalice and assist with the flower communion -- Youth are in the service from prelude (start) to postlude (finish). K - 5th graders who go to the back of the sanctuary at 10:55 AM will process (walk to the front) with the choir. Explorers (K-1st grade) and Rev. Amy McKenzie

April 27

Humans in Relation to Their Natural Environment, Intergenerational Earth Day Service

The children will attend the entire service, prelude to postlude, for our annual recognition of Earth Day. Dr. Rudloe will speak about "Thirty-Three Years of Environmental Battles -Who Will Continue the Effort?". She will review an activist past, consider present complexities as we try to implement principles in the real world, and will look to the future. Guest Speaker: Dr. Anne Rudloe; Lay Leader: Steve Urse

Noon 4/27: Brief Congregational Meeting

Minister's Message

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

CANVASS THANKS

Congratulations on your generous gifts of both time and money pledges for next year (July 1-June 30)! I hope you enjoyed or will enjoy the potlucks and being a part of this yearly ritual, depending on the date you attend one.

TEAM (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry)

In April and May, Members and Supporting Friends will be calling other Members and Supporting Friends to plan 1/2 hour - 40 minute One-to-One conversations. Why? The purpose is twofold: to get to know one another at a deeper level and to find out what issues in Tallahassee we would resolve if we had the people and time. With 16 congregations and a full-time organizer, TEAM will make a difference. And you can make a difference too by participating in Oneto-Ones and then the Organizing Assembly on Monday night June 2 at New Mount Zion AME Church (7th and Old Bainbridge).

The colorful flags outside my office are **<u>TIBETAN PRAYER FLAGS</u>** (thanks to Lorin Pratt).

These flags are **traditionally placed** atop mountain summits, over bridges, roof-tops, outside temples, at crossroads, holy sites, or anywhere open to catch the wind. The wind is considered an expression of mind and mental energy; the wind will carry the prayers off. I didn't put them outside the sanctuary but rather outside my office so we can welcome people whatever our opinions. My pro-peace, anti-war statement is not made on behalf of the entire congregation. Indeed all are welcome to our Sunday services, meetings and of course my office. We practice responsible disagreement and respectful agreement around here.

The central figure on each flag is **the** "Windhorse" (Tibetan "Lung-ta") the subduer of evil, and the vehicle of enlightenment. The horse bears three flaming jewels, to represent the Tibetan Buddhist "triple refuge" of the Buddha, the Dharma (Buddhist teachings), and the Sangha (Buddhist monastic community).

The prayer is written in Tibetan and expresses positive intentions for the happiness, enlightenment and protection of all beings. Seeing the flag also has a practical benefit of reminding people to be mindful of the Dharma (Buddhist teachings) as they go about their business. For example, the call to pray for the welfare of all beings, to work to bring about virtue, goodness, healing and happiness in the world around us. Our religious life can sustain those activities too.

The animals on the flags are:

-*Flying Horse* – accomplish positive works in a suitable and instant way

-Garuda eating snake (wisdom) – frighten-away evil wills or intentions

-**Dragon** (gentle power) – remove threats from the sky like thunderbolts

-*Tiger* (confidence) – success in each step of life, without hurdles

-*Lion* (joy) – be a front-runner in each step of life and fearless

The **colors** represent the five elements and the five different postures of Buddha also known as Buddha Families:

-Blue – Space / Akshobhya Buddha

- *White* – Water / Ratna Sambhava Buddha

-Red - Fire / Amitabha Buddha

- *Green* – Air and Wind / Amoghasiddhi Buddha

- **Yellow (Orange)** – Earth / Vairocana Buddha

Like us, prayer flags are not made with "perfect edges." The sun, wind and rain will fade them or wear the flags out over time.

If we are worn out, may it be for peace. If our edges aren't perfect, may it be because love has made us real. If our brightness fades, may it be because we have lent our light to others. If the wind picks up our prayers, may they be for the good of all. I wish us courage, and perseverance and hope.

Shalom, (Rev.) Amy

(from website texts, including the History and Use of Tibetan Prayer Flags composed by Karma Thinley Dorje at FourGates, 10/2000)



President's Message

By Jennifer Carver

It's canvass time again -- what a wonderful time of year! We all get to share a wonderful potluck meal and conversation with other UUCT members and friends and think about how we want to share our gifts with the UUCT community in the coming year. The canvass is an opportunity to let us know that you want to try something new at UUCT, whether it's volunteering in the nursery, serving on the Finance Committee or Caring Committee, providing food for special events, or greeting visitors and regulars on Sunday morning.

Announcements

Can You Help?

We are looking for a few good men or women who graduated from High School in a year ending in three (1923, 1933, 1943, 1953, etc.). If you graduated in a year ending in three and would like to help out in a special ceremony, please contact Maggie Geraci, DRE, or Rev. Amy McKenzie, by the end of April.

We are also looking for adults who grew up as Unitarian Universalists. If you grew up a UU and would like to help out in a special ceremony, please contact Maggie Geraci, DRE, or Rev. Amy McKenzie, by the end of April.

Child Dedication & Naming

A Child Dedication for all ages of children and youth and Child Naming for infants will be led by Rev. Amy on Sunday, May 18. Please speak with her (383-9186) or DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301) if you are interested. See *Youth Religious Education* for descriptions of those ceremonies. The canvass is also the time to think about your financial contribution to support UUCT's programs and operations. This year, our canvass theme is Growing a Home for Liberal Faith – we've built the building (almost!), and now it's time to focus on the community that inhabits these facilities. Please think about how UUCT is important to you and let us know!

One of the things that's important to me about UUCT is the people. UUCTers are my extended family, people to whom I can look to for support, advice, or just food and fun! Several members of our UUCT community need us right now to provide assistance and/or healing thoughts. Please keep these folks in your hearts and minds as you go through your day.

In community,

Jennifer

Calling All Singers:

Have you ever thought about joining the O.K. Chorale? We'd love to have you! We rehearse Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary. You do not have to audition. Come join us as we sing ourselves to bliss! Questions? Call Helen at 309-6853.

Giving statements

If you need a calendar year (versus fiscal year) statement of your UUCT contributions for income tax purposes, contact Collecting Treasurer Tom Chase (422-1985,

twchase@tallynet.com, or 405 Castleton Circle, Tallahassee, 32312).

Reminder: Church Office Hours

Please keep in mind that the church office is open "for business" during the week but not on Sundays. When Administrative Assistant Kathie Mackie is here on Sundays, she is attending the service, not working. Please refrain from asking her questions, etc.

Friends of the UUA

Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will be conducting a phonathon this winter and spring. Donations from individuals are a crucial part of the UUA's operating budget. In the past year, the Friends of the UUA provided roughly 10 percent of the total UUA budget. If you are not already a Friend of the UUA, please consider becoming one.

At The Back of The Sanctuary

- * **Mountain Information**: Program schedules and brochures.
- What's Happening at UUCT?: Check this bulletin board for information on upcoming events.



Auction Reminder

Please remember to find something that you can donate to the Spring auction. The annual fund

raiser will be held on Saturday, May 10, if we have enough donations. Call Dorothy Mann (222-6166) or Joan Patterson (309-1248).



Appreciation

- Randall Gann, Jean Chulak Carolyn DuBard, Barbara Gearhart, Dave and Nancy Harvey, DeWayne Carver, Dorothy Mann, Ed and Linda Oaksford, and Elinor Elfner for greeting members and visitors on Sunday mornings 3/2 - 3/23.
- Dave and Nancy Harvey, Carolyn Pardue, Bob Kenon, and Susan Angel for providing hospitality 3/2 - 3/23.
- Judith Webb, Kandy Crowe, Earl and Eleanor Enge, Jerri Lee Wagner, Elinor Elfner and John Whitton, Nina Cline, and Jack and Terri Martin for being clean up "heroes" and everyone else who helped with clean up in the kitchen.

Social Justice

Green Sanctuary Resolution Progress Report

The Green Sanctuary Committee has written a draft revision based upon the comments received at the March 9 Congregational Meeting, where the resolution was sent back to the committee for further work prior to congregational vote. This draft will be circulated to those who have expressed interest.

After that feedback, the proposed Resolution will be available and will be included in the May Meridian, for consideration at the Annual Meeting in May. If you want to participate in wordsmithing these revisions, e-mail Steve Urse, (surse2@earthlink.net).

Continuing the Journey Toward Wholeness

The March 15 All-Congregation Event to discuss where UUCT is on the Journey Toward Wholeness had 18 participants. Isabel Sheridan, Chair of the Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee (RCDC), which sponsored the event, introduced the day's program. Joanne Taylor explained the concept of a Harmony Camp for the summer of 2004 for our children. Rev. Amy McKenzie explained the vision of Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry (TEAM) and gave details of how the process will work at the congregation level and later at the community level.

Chelsea Cline and the Campus

Ministry Group for February and

Don Weed, Dorothy Mann, John

Donaldson, Beth Cavano, Susan

Snyder, Sally Andersen, Brenda

and Bob Glenn, Joan Patterson,

Erin Hamilton and friend for

The Racial and Cultural

planning the Continuing the

March for preparing and serving

The Shelter meal. And Dorothy

Mann for agreeing to lead the third

Diversity Committee (RCDC) for

Journey Toward Wholeness All-

Congregation Event. And Tameka

Neil Mooney, and Bob Kenon for

their presentations; **Peggy Lentz**

for preparing lunch; Danny Geraci

for providing childcare; and the 18

Nancy Bass and Mary Ventre led an experiential exercise in diversity to give participants a taste of the course Weaving the Fabric of Diversity. Tameka Hobbs, Director of Programs and Projects for Riley House Museum, made a presentation on the museum's function as a reservoir of primary historical materials for research at all levels of education.

Bob Kenon briefed the group on the progress of the Alternate Program Group in creating more diversity in UUCT's membership. Nancy Bass updated the group on the work of the members and friends who attended.

- Judith Webb for sweeping off the sidewalks on Friday, 3/21.
- Don Berger, Dave Harvey, Francis Ventre, Randall Gann, George Knight, and Tom Chase for attending the March 8 work day, and washing the sanctuary high west windows in and out, cleaning refrigerator coils and A/C filters, sweeping walks and checking fire extinguishers.
- All those who are working hard on this year's Annual Canvass. We'll thank you by name soon.
- Hobbs from Riley House Museum, * **Bob Deyle** for writing the Green Corner articles from July 2001 -March 2003.

Florida District's new Social and Racial Justice Council, of which she is the first chair. Neil Mooney discussed the upcoming course he and an African American colleague will offer at church for lawyers; the course is titled "Lawyering in a Diverse Society."

Sign-up sheets indicated significant support from the participants for the proposed Harmony Camp, for TEAM, and for Riley House Museum.

After the morning's presentations and a discussion of other ideas, participants had lunch, catered by Peggy Lentz.

Shelter Meal Coordination

We now have a team leader for each of the three Shelter meal teams. Now all we need is someone to take over coordinating the whole project. It's easy, with all the great volunteers we have. Call Isabel Sheridan (668-0785) if you'd like to be the coordinator or just want to join a team.



*

team!

Lifespan Religious Education 👦

Youth Religious Education

Next Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sunday, April 6, 9:30 AM

- YOUTH RE CONTACTS: Kelley Turnage, Youth RE Committee Chair (553-9416)
- Tina Bush Rester, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair (580-6531)
- Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DRE), (877-6301 or DREMaggie@comcast.net)

Curriculum

See our *Lifespan Religious Education* brochure for more details on the curriculum and the general goals for each age grouping, names of teachers, and descriptions of special youth and family events for the year.

Annual Youth Community Clean-Up

As part of our service to the community, the Youth will once again be participating in a Community Cleanup. On Sunday, April 6, during the Sunday Service, the youth will travel to Winthrop Park to clean up the park. Trash bags will be provided. Children should wear old clothes that can get dirty. If you have gloves, please bring them. We also need parents willing to drive to the park and chaperone. Permission slips will be going out to the parents. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Maggie Geraci, DRE.

Spring Parents' Night Out/ Kids' Fun Night

It's time once again for our semiannual Parents' Night Out/Kids' Fun Night. Drop your kids off at UUCT at **4:00 PM on Saturday, April 26,** and then spend four glorious hours doing whatever you want...KID FREE! That's right...don't come back until 8:00 pm. We'll take care of the kids for you and the cost is only \$3.00 per child to help pay for pizza. This is an extraspecial event.

With adult supervision, the kids will get hands-on experience making food to share with the congregation for Sunday Hospitality. We also ask that you plan on attending the Sunday Service the next day, so the kids can help set up and clean up Hospitality. We want to share the joy of volunteerism with the children and build up their self-confidence in their abilities, plus offer some perspective on the work involved in preparing hospitality. To sign up for this great event, stop by the RE table or contact Maggie Geraci, DRE.

Our Whole Lives

The Youth RE Committee is preparing to offer *Our Whole Lives*, a lifespan sexuality education curriculum, to grades K through First, Fourth and Fifth, and Middle School in the 2003-2004 RE year. We are looking for those interested in teaching this outstanding curriculum. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Susan Angel, OWL Coordinator (906-9524), or Maggie Geraci, DRE for more information.

What is a Child Dedication or Naming?

A Child or Youth Dedication Ceremony is a traditional Unitarian Universalist ritual of accepting the parents' and congregation's responsibilities in the religious development of the child or youth and welcoming her or him into participation in the beloved community. Verbal commitments are made to nurture and support. The participants are then dedicated to a life of love and service to the world and to one of creative possibility and meaning.

Any age child or youth may participate, both those new to our church community and those who have been here awhile. Our church will have a group ceremony during the May 18 service, but it is also possible for members to arrange individual ceremonies. For the group ceremony, we will learn why children were given their name and the hopes that parents have for their children.

A Child Naming Ceremony is a similar UU ritual usually done for infants. These are two of the special ceremonies our church has to recognize our youths' transitions in life.

YRUU (Youth Group)

Meetings: Every Sunday evening, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Room 4 at UUCT) - with members taking turns planning and leading.

YRUU Fundraiser: On Saturday, April 5, from 7 - 10 PM, YRUU will hold the 2nd Annual Wildflower Prom for the congregation.

YRUU Lock-in: YRUU will hold a lock-in in the sanctuary following the Wildflower Prom, ending the lock-in at 9 AM Sunday morning, April 6.

FL District CONferences:

- * Apr. 11 13, Social Action Con, Location TBA
- * Apr. 25 27 Youth Caucus, Oviedo
- * May 2 4, All Age, Tampa

For more information, call YRUU Advisors Jennifer and DeWayne Carver (402-0622), Rod and Jan Oldenburg (297-0391), Christine Boczarska (893-7079), or Howard Pardue (386-1494) or YRUU Youth Contact Ethan Deyle (422-1057).

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

- Sheila Meehan, Adult Enrichment Coordinator (smeehan@hklaw. com; 668-5075)
- Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DREMaggie@comcast.net; 877-6301).

CURRENT CLASSES:

The Artist Way. Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the sanctuary or a classroom. Facilitator: Amy Mann (222-1420, amann@tdo.infi.net).

Evensong: A Series of Gatherings. New groups starting periodically, with the next group scheduled to meet Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, April 8 -May 27. In eight gatherings, Evensong participants explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and beliefs about traditional religious concepts. Contact Rev. Amy.

New UU & Déjà Vu, UU. These classes are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT. They are taught by Rev. Amy and a UUCT member. The next sessions will be Mondays, April 14 and 21, 7-9 PM. Contact the church office (385-5115) or membership chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057) if interested.

Siblings Without Rivalry. Beginning Wednesday, April 9, we will offer Siblings Without Rivalry, a 6 - 7 week workshop series based on the bestselling book of the same name by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. No need to go it alone when coping with sibling rivalry. Join other parents with the same frustrations.

The goal of the *Siblings Without Rivalry* workshop is to help you help your children learn to live together. During each session you will learn and practice specific skills that reduce friction and make harmony possible. You'll find out how to: help children express negative feelings without hurting each other, treat children unequally and still be fair, free your children from harmful roles such as "bully" and "victim," respond helpfully when children fight, promote an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition, and resolve conflicts peacefully.

The course will run from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on consecutive Wednesdays. In order to cover the cost of the workbook, a fee of \$20 will be required. Participants will also need to buy (or checkout of the library) their own copy of the book "Siblings Without Rivalry." Childcare can be arranged if necessary. Please contact Maggie Geraci, DRE, ASAP if you have any questions or you want to sign up for the course.

Other Classes Announced and Described in Adult Enrichment Directory:

- Evolution of the Psyche: The New Evolving Psyche
- Weaving the Fabric of Diversity: An Anti-Bias Program for Adults (Will be offered in Fall)
- Faithful Choices An Adult Program in Clinical Ethics and Religious Values.

OPEN PARTICIPATION

- Adult Forum, Sun., 9:45 -10:45
 AM, Room 4. Open to everyone. Usually third Sunday topic relates to the Green Sanctuary program. Contact Norene Chase (422-1985).
- Women's Spirituality Group. The group meets on Mondays at 7:15 PM off-site. Contact Bonnie Foster (539-5563).

zenTAOBuddhist Sangha

zen Sangha still meets on Sunday mornings only!

The zenTAOBuddhist Sangha meets every Sunday from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in Room 2. Come try a 20-minute zazen meditation. We are a sharing and support group (in the spirit of the Transcendentalists, Emerson and Thoreau) who are open to all ideas flowing from the great traditions of Buddhism, Taoism, Zen, and Eastern religious roots in general. We try to apply new ideas to our diverse lives-to "wake up" (become enlightened! Ha!), to transcend -- to find some peace in a world ever full of old troubles. For more information, contact Will Adkins (385-5071 or wma@post.harvard.edu).

Here's a quote to share, from "Tangerine Meditation" in Thich Nhat Hanh's 1991 book Peace is Every Step (The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life):

"If I offer you a freshly picked tangerine to enjoy, I think the degree to which you enjoy it will depend on your mindfulness. If you are free of worries and anxiety, you will enjoy it more. If you are possessed by anger or fear, the tangerine may not be very real to you... Each time you look at a tangerine, you can see deeply into it. You can see everything in the universe in one tangerine. When you peel it and smell it, it's wonderful. You can take your time eating a tangerine and be very happy."

Campus Ministry Corner

By Chelsea Cline, Campus Ministry Coordinator

Happy Spring Everyone! Yes, Spring is finally here, and it's wonderful. Spring Break came and went without incident, and the respite (for some of us) was more than welcome. A big thank you goes out to Dr. Dexter Easton for generously letting us use his beach house for our upcoming retreat at the end of April. We've also been planning our Sunday service for April 6. It will be an exploration of our goal of world community. I would like to thank University UU Pippin Whitaker for representing me and Tallahassee's Campus Ministry at the Young Adult/Campus Ministry Conference in Kansas City, March 8-11. The conference, organized by the UUA, was immensely valuable for me as a new Campus Ministry Coordinator, and for our entire Campus Ministry, to get support from other ministries around the country, make new contacts, get fresh ideas, and put our challenges and issues into perspective.

Starting in May we will meet at Javaheads once a week; days and times will be announced. If you have any questions, please contact me (chelsuu@yahoo.com, 222-3931).

Green Corner

By Joan Patterson



Green Tips in Practice

Last fall, when Erin Hamilton (my granddaughter) needed a topic for her 7th grade science project, she turned to one of the UUCT's Green Sanctuary tips. She and her friend, fellow 7th grader Diana Ortiz, decided to see if using environmentally safe products to clean the household toilets was as effective and efficient as using commercial toilet bowl cleaners which contain harsh chemicals. Based on a Green Sanctuary handout, they chose white vinegar and baking soda as their environmentally safe products, and Clorox Toilet Bowl Cleaner with Clinging Action as the commercial product.

For the first part of the project, the girls used the Clorox cleaner and charted how many days/hours before the toilet showed signs of being soiled, as well as how many minutes it took to clean the toilet at each of the cleanings. After a sufficient number of cleanings with the Clorox, the experiment was then repeated for the same number of days, using the vinegar and baking soda, and the same cleaning brush. The results were charted and compared. The results showed that the environmentally safe products were just as effective in cleaning toilets as the commercial cleaner, and were more efficient since they cost less money.

Erin and Diana said that the teacher was rather skeptical when they first proposed their topic, but after hearing their presentation and results, the teacher said she herself had learned something new and that the results were both interesting and informative. The girls received a "B" grade on their project, and probably would have gotten an "A" if they had started earlier and collected more data.

Erin and I continue to use the environmentally safe products, and I buy the largest and cheapest boxes of baking soda and jugs of white vinegar. The two products are also great for cleaning and freshening the garbage disposal. Hint: don't mix the vinegar and soda ahead of time. Pour the baking soda into the toilet or sink first, then add the vinegar; the bubbling action helps the cleaning. No need to measure – just pour some out of each container. Works great, easy to use, and saves money, too.

Green Applications in the Congregation

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to acknowledge those in the congregation who are making green applications in their lives to combat global warming. The following people have purchased and are now driving hybrid cars: Rev. Amy, Eric Draper, Yvonne Gsteiger, Pam and Don Crosby, and Joan Patterson.

Growing a Home For Liberal Faith

2003-2004 Annual Operating Budget Canvass

By Margaret Mooney, Canvass Chairperson

When this goes to print the 2003-2004 Canvass will be in full swing. Every member and friend of UUCT has been invited to a small-group potluck meal. If somehow you weren't, please call Annette Pearce (891-8660) right away. People who are unable to attend a potluck will still have the opportunity to pledge to give money and time and will be contacted soon by the canvass team.

Everyone has also received mailings from the Canvass and Finance Committees with:

1. The Asking Budget which was approved by the congregation on 3/9.

2. Accomplishments/Vision Reports from most UUCT committees.

3. A Giving Guide to help determine financial pledges.

4. Gifts of Self forms and information.

Thank <u>you</u> for your gifts of your time, efforts, and money. Our church is growing, in all kinds of ways, because of <u>you</u>!

Congregational Meeting, 12:00 PM, Sunday, April 27, 2003

The Florida District is electing its own UUA Trustee for the first time. (Until this year, we've shared a trustee with the Mid-South District.) Each congregation was allowed to nominate a candidate, and unfortunately, the UUCT members who were approached by the Executive Board (those with experience working in the District) all declined to be nominated. We have received the ballots, and there is only one candidate for the position, Joan Lund.

So, why should we vote if there's only one person running? First, it's not an

automatic election -- if no congregations vote for Ms. Lund, she won't be elected as our Trustee (and then we won't have one). Second, it is important that UUCT stay involved in Florida District and UUA issues.

Ms. Lund has a long history of involvement in her own congregation and the Florida District. She has served as President of the UU Church of Tampa (1988-1992). She has been on the Florida District Board, including terms as Secretary, Vice President, and President. And she is currently one of the District's Healthy Congregations Consultants -- to name a few of her activities and accomplishments.

She states that as Florida District UUA Trustee, she will diligently work toward helping our District and the UUA grow, while being aware of our concerns with open, honest communications. Additional information can be found on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary.

Please stick around for a few minutes after the Sunday service on April 27 to vote for this important position!

Congregational and Executive Board Actions for March 2003

By Jennifer Carver, President

Board actions for March:

The UUCT Executive Board met on March 6, 2003 and took the following actions:

- Approved holding a congregational voting meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2003, for the purpose of voting on the Florida District UUA Trustee candidates.
- Voted to have the Secretary, Past President, and VP for Finance as those designated to have access

to the church's new safety deposit 2. A revised Green Sanctuary box at Tallahassee State Bank. Resolution was proposed a

Congregational Actions:

A congregational voting meeting was held on Sunday, March 9, 2003, and the following actions were taken:

- The Asking Budget for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 was approved with one amendment correcting the amount shown in Cell D9 to read \$3,000 (instead of \$4,100).
- A revised Green Sanctuary Resolution was proposed as a substitute motion, and after some discussion, the Resolution was tabled and referred back to the Green Sanctuary Committee for revision.

About Our New Members

George Knight. George is a retired newspaperman, who was born in Miami and attended Emory University. His interests include reading, traveling, gardening, and bicycling.

He was raised a Methodist and considered being a minister, but soon became skeptical and did not end up pursuing it. When asked what brought him to UUCT and why he became a member, George says: "I sought a non-traditional church which would serve to free my life rather than place impediments upon it. I find the lack of dogma refreshing. In a way, I am also completing the religious quest of my recently deceased wife, who attended here, but never joined."

George says the church can "provide an intellectually stimulating experience on Sunday morning, and perhaps at

Facilities Update

By Trudy Deyle, Capital Improvement Committee Chairperson

PROGRESS. Our new building continues to take shape. Plumbing, electrical and air handling systems have been or are in the process of being installed. Soon exterior wall material will go up. Ramps and walkways are being poured; and now that we've had an extended period of sunshine to dry the ground out, the final grading can be done and the first layer of asphalt laid for the new driveway. other times as well." He has volunteered for the Publicity Committee but will also participate in other activities.

Mary Persons. Mary grew up in St. Augustine, lived in Pensacola in the late 60's, and has lived in Tallahassee since 1970. She has one brother, three children, one stepson, one grandchild, with another on the way, and one step grandchild. Her fourth child, the oldest, died two years ago.

Mary is a nurse and licensed massage therapist and enjoys writing, watercolor painting, and animals. She has four dogs, three cats, three cockatiels, and two geese, as well as befriending a flock of geese and a host of other creatures, such as raccoons, possums, and birds.

Neighborhood Association Board has

invited Rev. Amy and me to their April

meeting to tell them about our building

Starmount Dr., and not on Coldstream

Dr. or Meridian Place, on days when

the ground is wet, so that we do not

risk damaging neighbors' yards.

plans. We want to keep the good

relations we have with neighbors.

Please remember to park on

Mary says she was "raised fanatically Catholic" and attended Catholic schools. She says she started rebelling at the age of three and has followed an "intense and resolute spiritual journey". Two of her interests are "reading religions as history and spirituality as a life-style". Mary attended UUCT from 1975-1982, and her stepson, Doug, was also active in UUCT at that time.

Mary feels that she is "recommuning" versus rejoining. She has returned to UUCT for the same reasons she first came: "intellectual pursuits, spiritual journeying, and a forum to question openly and to accept openly". At UUCT she hopes to find "meetings of like minds and meetings of unlike minds". When asked what the church can do for her personally, Mary's response is: "The love you make is equal to the love you take."

OUR NEIGHBORS. The Waverly Hills BUILDING DEDICATION. Many

thanks to Pauline Masterton for agreeing to serve as chairperson of the Building Dedication Sub-Committee. The dedication for our congregation and the open house for the community are scheduled for September 14.

Thank you for your continued patience in putting up with the inconveniences of construction. It won't be too much longer before our patience is rewarded with beautiful new facilities!

Rev. Amy's Peace Rally Remarks from 3/22/03 (Excerpt)

We have a song to sing. It is a song of joy. We have a sacred duty to perform. It is to spread wonder about life.

I say our televised war is terrible not awesome. Join me in limiting your viewing to 30 min or less a day. Raise your right hand and take the vow!

We have a song to sing. It is a song of We shall unleash our awe for peace, joy. We have a sacred duty to for peace not for war.

Here are five points of peace that we shall remember and enact.

Peace respects spiritual truths not hidden agendas

Peace dissolves hatred

Peace soothes our fears

Peace expands -- support for the men and women in the U.S. military **and** conviction that war won't bring an end to war.

Peace embraces life and raises the next generation to trust, to think, and to love.

Welcome As Members

- * Mary V. Persons
- * George D. Knight
- * Pippin Whitaker
- * Mary VanSciver

Membership

To explore becoming a member or supporting friend • contact Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057) or Rev. Amy.

UUCT Name Tags

Help visitors get to know us by wearing your NAME TAG and thinking of yourself as "HOST". New members and supporting friends receive nametags. Contact office for replacements (\$3.75 each).

New Member Recognition

Sunday, April 13.

Baby, What's for Dinner?

Are you expecting or adopting a child? If you or another UUCT member is expecting a new arrival, contact Heike Sanford (668-6369). If you are interested in preparing meals for families during the first days of parenthood, contact

Non-UUCT Events

- Every Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Spiral Scouts (Rm 4 or next available room)
- Every Thursday, 7:15 PM Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Every Sunday, 6:30 PM Urantia (Rm 5); 7:00 PM Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)

Heike.

Opportunities

- Hospitality on Sunday: To bring refreshments, contact Lois Bloom (402-9044).
 - **Clean Up on Sunday:** To volunteer, contact Eleanor and Earl Enge (926-9352).
- Music Committee: A few music lovers, especially those not in the choir, are needed to meet 2-3 times/year.
 Contact Cheryl Ward (668-5024) or Helen Falb (422-0603).
- Shelter Meal: Monday, April 14, 7:15 PM. To contribute or assist with, call Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).
- Sunday Service Greeter: Contact Jean Chulak (385-2214 or jeanchulak@aol.com).
- Sunday Service Brigrade: People needed Sat. or Sun. mornings at 9:00 to setup chairs, etc. Contact Richard Dempsey (671-2748; richardd@nettally.com).
- Social Justice Opportunity: TCC's Reach Out Program (CROP) needs mentors for middle & high schoolers. Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).

Lost and Found

Look for missing items on top of the the wooden table in the mailbox room or in the kitchen on the cart near the refrigerator. Items not claimed for two months will be sent to ECHO.

Joys and Sorrows

We keep in our thoughts and prayers, minds and hearts...

Christine Boczarska, on the death of her mother.

Del DeTar, who is recuperating from bypass surgery and doing well.

Dinners In Homes

Dinners for 8 and Dinners for Families with Children will run through May. Hosts set the menu and provide the main dish, as casual or gourmet as they like; guests bring the rest.

Dinners for 8 is adults only, with parents welcome. Dinners for Families with Children is for parents and children. A primary purpose for all dinners is to provide opportunities for newcomers to meet longer-term members and friends.

If you are a newcomer or you missed the sign-up for guests or hosts and are interested, contact Barbara Gearhart for Dinners for 8 (386-7378) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057 or gdeyle@juno.com) for Dinners for Families.

Directory Changes

If your mailing address, phone number or email address changes, please let the office know. Unless you direct us otherwise, changes will be published in bimonthly directory updates.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Contact Tina Bush Rester, (580-6531) or Scott Geraci, (sgeraci10@ comcast.net or 877-6301)

The Committee on Ministry

Chair: Richard Dempsey (671-2748) Christine Boczarska (893-7079) Bruce Brandt (893-5511) Rev. Amy is a non-voting member.

Current UUCT Stats

- Certified Membership (as of 1/03) -174
- Current Membership - 180
- Current Number of Friends - 46
- Average Sunday Church Attendance for month of February - 100.8
- Average Sunday Attendance for July
 February - 96.5
- Average Sunday Attendance Past Fiscal Year: 100.4
- RE Enrollment 45

April UUCT Events, Social Activities, Events After April

April UUCT Events

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE. Will not be held in April.

UU DOWNTOWN CHOW-DOWN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 11:30 AM. First Wednesday of the month, Jacob's Doubletree Inn, for all interested members and friends of the congregation. Soup and salad is \$6.95, the full buffet \$10.95. No RSVP needed; just come. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053 or 891-8660).

CANVASS POTLUCKS, FRIDAYS -

SUNDAYS, APRIL 4-6 & 11-12. More potluck gatherings to discuss program plans and financing for the upcoming year and then make our individual pledges for our gifts of self and money. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053).

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 7:00 PM. The third monthly peace vigil. To be followed at 8 PM by a slide presentation by Lynn Coultas, member of the Christian Peacemakers Team recently in Iraq. Friends Meetinghouse (Quakers), 2001 South Magnolia Drive, (656-2027). Carpool; parking limited.

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9:00 AM -

1:00 PM. Enjoy fellowship working together on chores and projects needed to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Tom Chase (422-1985).

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 12:30 PM. The

quarterly meeting of committee chairs to share plans and coordinate activities. Also at this meeting, the proposed fund-raisers for 2003 - 2004 will be reviewed and a recommendation made to the Board on which ones to approve. Please try to get in the food line promptly and bring your food to the meeting. Contact: Neil Mooney (893-8250). CHURCH COUNCIL & FINANCE MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 21, 7:00 PM. An opportunity for the Church Council to attend the Finance Committee meeting to review together the draft final budget for next year before it is considered by the Board the following Thursday. Contact: Del DeTar (878-7895).

KIDS' FUN NIGHT, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 4:00 - 8:00 PM. And parents' night out. See *Youth Religious Education* for details.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, NOON. See article on p. 8.

CAMPUS MINISTRY SOUP LUNCH, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 12:30 PM. Stay after the service and voting meeting for delicious soup and fellowship. Donations accepted to benefit UUCT operating budget and campus ministry. Contacts: Sara Reece (309-1933) and Chelsea Cline (222-3931).

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES GROUP, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1:30 PM. Winthrop Park. Bring picnic food to share. Contact: Rosa Morgan (668-0885).

UUCT Social Activities

See events write-ups for details. Contact Ludy Goodson (531-9819, ludy8@juno.com, or with a note given to her on a Sunday) regarding possible UUCT Social Events.

- UU Downtown Chow-Down, Wednesday, April 2, 11:30 AM
- Potluck, Sunday, April 13, 12:30 PM
- Soup Lunch, Sunday, April 27, 12:30 PM

Events After April

INTERFAITH MEDITATION VIGIL, MONDAY, MAY 5, 7:00 PM. The fourth monthly peace vigil will be at UUCT, sponsored by our Social Justice Committee. Members of the Cypress Tree Zen Group and other local Buddhist groups will offer



SECOND WILDFLOWER PROM SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 7 - 10 PM

It's that time of year again, flower children! Yes, the teens of YRUU will soon be hosting the second annual Wildflower Prom for UUCT's teensat-heart. For those of you who didn't attend last year, the Wildflower Prom is an opportunity for all the adults in the congregation, whatever their age, to slip on their boogie shoes for a night of retro dance party action to benefit our youth.

For only \$20 or \$10 each, you and a date can get in a night's worth of groovin' to the hits of your g-ggeneration, a sample of the famous YRUU lime punch, and memories to last a lifetime. Sound like a deal? It gets better - two lucky attendees will also be crowned Prom King and Queen for their superior trivia knowledge, and ALL attendees will get to see Rev. Amy and UUCT President Jennifer Carver getting down to the hits of the 80's! Don't miss it! Mark your calendars and come support our youth. Tickets available at the door and through YRUU representative Katie McAuley (893-8767). Don't be square - see

• you there!

.......

practices for peace. All faiths are welcome. Contacts: Lorin Pratt (893-3067) or Norene Chase (422-1985).

ANNUAL AUCTION, SATURDAY, MAY 10, EVENING. An enjoyable evening in support of the church's operating budget. Goods and services donations needed now. See article in *Announcements*. Contacts: Joan Patterson (309-1248) and Dorothy Mann (222-6166).

Events After April, District & National Events

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM, SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1:00 PM. An

opportunity to ask questions about and discuss the items to be voted on the following Sunday at the Annual Meeting. Background material on the items will be mailed to all members and friends at the end of April. Contact: Jennifer Carver (402-0622).

PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1:00 PM. Mark your calendar for this annual event for both carnivores and vegetarians, held at Jean and Ken Wood's home in South Georgia. Enjoy outdoor activities, good food and fellowship. Contacts: Ed Oaksford (422-0240) and Steve Urse (385-2864). ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING, MAY 18, 12:15 PM. Our meeting to elect Board and Nominating Committee members, adopt a final budget for the next year, and transact any other important business. Contact: Jennifer Carver (402-0622).

Florida District Events

DISTRICT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY - SUNDAY, APRIL 25 - 27. Held at the Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo, FL near Orlando, this gathering is open to all interested. It features workshops, shared meals, worship, the District annual meeting, and plenty of time to relax and get to know others. This year's theme: "The Means and the Meaning" with Rev. Terry Sweetser as keynote speaker. Registration forms are at the back of the sanctuary. Contact President Jennifer Carver if you are interested in serving as a UUCT Delegate for the District annual meeting (402-0622 or jzadwick@tfn.net).

FLORIDA WOMEN AND RELIGION SPRING RETREAT, FRIDAY -

SUNDAY, MAY 16 - 18. Held at the UU in the Pines Retreat Center, Brooksville, FL. A celebration of fairies! To sign up go to www.floridawomenandreligion.org.

National Events

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THURSDAY - MONDAY, JUNE 26 -30. Held in Boston this year. All are welcome to attend. Detailed information and registration forms available at the UUA GA office (617-948-4209 or gaoffice@uua.org).

Notes from The Mountain 💈

By Linda Winn-Brown, Mountain Ambassador

Tenth Annual Embracing Our Lesbian Identity Retreat - April 24 -27. Two and three night options available. A variety of outdoor activities including mountain biking, golfing, the challenge course; personal and spiritual growth workshops; women's medical and financial health; arts workshops; and enjoy dancing and music with jB JAMS Entertainment with lesbian women of all ages.

MountainScape Climbing & Rappelling Weekend, May 2 - 4. Early bird rates through 4/2. Learn basic skills of rock climbing and rappelling including fitting safety equipment. Course is open to everyone 14 and over. Youth ages 14-17 require a participating parent/guardian. The Retreat You Don't Have to Plan III, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 -25. Early bird rates through 4/23. Let The Mountain do the work for you and join UUs from around the region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION check at the back of the sanctuary. Contact Linda Winn-Brown, 562-4755; Iwinn41@earthlink.net or The Mountain, Highlands, NC (828) 526-5838 or www.mountaincenters.org.

What is SUUSI? (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute)

SUUSI is an intentional community celebrating its 52nd year in 2002. We are UUs and others who gather for a week in July to explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing. And SUUSI is an experience with many levels: fun times, great scenery, sparkles of insight during workshop discussions, high-energy dancing, moments of reflection and awareness, connections with new friends, liberating worship services, even good grits (what, you've never had grits?). When about 1000 people assemble for a week with a common objective—to establish an intentional community with harmony, spirit, and spice—magic happens. Be there, this year. Bring your friends and family, and develop new friends and a new sense of family.

Watch for more information on the back counter of the sanctuary or visit info@suusi.org.



x pril 2003 Calendar of vents

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 PM RCDC, Rm 4 Rev. Amy Away	2 11:30 AM UU Chow-Down, off-site 6 PM UUUs 7:15 PM Membership Comm., Rm 4 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	3 7 PM Board Meeting, Rm 4	 4 Office Closed 11 AM Committee on Ministry, Rev. Amy's office 6 PM University UUs, off-site Canvass Potlucks, off-site 	5 7-10 PM Wildflower Prom & YRUU Lock-in after Prom Canvass Potlucks, off-site
6 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9 AM YRUU Lock- in ends 9:30 AM Youth RE Comm. Mtg. 12:15 PM Campus Ministry Comm. Mtg., Rm 3 6 PM YRUU, Rm 4 Canvass Potlucks, off-site	7 7 PM Artist Way, sanctuary 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group (WSG), off-site 7:15 PM Program Comm., Rm 2 7:30 PM Building & Grounds Comm., Rm 4	8 7-8:30 PM Evensong, Rm 2	9 11:30 AM Personnel Comm., off-site 6 PM UUUs, off- site 7-8:30 PM Siblings without Rivalry, Rm 2 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	10 7 PM CIC, Rm 2	11 6 PM University UUs off-site Canvass potlucks, off-site	12 Canvass potlucks, off-site 9 AM - 1 PM Workday
 13 12:30 PM Potluck & Meridian Deadline 12:30 PM Church Council 4-6 PM Ldrshp Development , Rm 2 6 PM YRUU, Rm 4 	14 7 PM New UU, Rm 2 7 PM Artist Way, sanctuary 7:15 PM Shelter Meal, off-site 7:15 PM WSG, off-site	15 7-8:30 PM Evensong, Rm 2	16 6 PM UUUs, off-site 7-8:30 PM Siblings without Rivalry, Rm 2 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	17	18 6 PM University UUs off-site	19
20 12:30 PM Green Sanctuary Comm. Mtg. 6 PM YRUU, Rm 4	21 7 PM New UU, Rm 2 7 PM Finance Committee, Rm 4 w/Council 7 PM Artist Way, sanctuary 7:15 WSG, off-site	22 7-8 :30 PM Evensong, Rm 2	23 6 PM UUUs, off-site 7-8:30 PM Siblings without Rivalry, Rm 2 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	24 7 PM Board Meeting Rev. Amy a	25 6 PM University UUs off-site t Ministers' & Distr	26 4 - 8 PM RE Fun Night, Sanctuary ict Mtgs.
27 12 PM Congregational Voting Meeting 12:30 PM Campus Ministry Soup Lunch 1:30 PM Multicultural Families, off-site 6 PM YRUU, Rm 4	28 7 PM Artist Way, sanctuary 7:15 PM WSG, off-site	29 7-8:30 PM Evensong, Rm 2	30 7-8:30 PM Siblings without Rivalry, Rm 2 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary 6 PM University UUs, off-site			

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee 2810 N. Meridian Road Tallahassee, FL 32312

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 850-385-5115 Fax: 850-385-5834 Email: uuct@nettally.com Church Office hours: M-F 7:00-3:30 (Closed 11:00-11:30)

We're on the Web! www.nettally.com/uuct

Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Amy McKenzie's office hours at church:

Wednesday 1 - 5, Thursday 9 - 5. These and others by appointment. E-Mail: revamq@earthlink.net Study: 383-9186; Cellular Ph: 850-566-1388

Kathie Mackie, Administrative Assistant, 385-5115

Helen Falb, Music Director, 309-6853; helen@townbeacon.com

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education, 877-6301; DREMaggie@comcast.net

Chelsea Cline, Campus Ministry Coordinator, 222-3931; chelsuu@yahoo.com

Scott Geraci, Nursery Worker, 877-6301; sgeraci10@comcast.net

YOUTH EVENTS

- See Youth RE (p. 5). * YRUU meets regularly
- Sundays, 6-8 PM.

Our Mission:

"The mission of UUCT is to be a liberal religious presence that supports individual spiritual quests and service to others in a community of open hearts, minds, and doors."

ADULT ENRICHMENT

See Adult Enrichment (p. 6)

- Artist Way, Mon., 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 7 PM. Contact: Amy Mann (222-1420)
- Evensong, Tues. 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, & 4/29, 7 PM. Contact: Rev. Amy (383-9186)
- * **New UU**, Mon. 4/14 & 4/21, 7 PM. Contact:
- Trudy Deyle (422-1057) **Siblings without Rivalry**, Wed. 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 7 PM. Contact: Maggie Geraci (877-6301)

 Women's Spirituality, Every Mon. 7:15 PM. Contact: Bonnie Foster (539-5563)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thurs. 4/3 & 4/24, 7 PM.
 Contact: Pres. Jennifer
 Carver (402-0622)

COMMITTEES MEET

- Open to All Interested

 Buildings & Grounds,
- Mon. 4/7, 7:30 PM. Contact: Francis Ventre (402-3050)
- Capital Improvement, Thurs. 4/10, 7:15 PM.
 Contact: Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- Committee on Ministry Fri. 4/4, 11 AM. Contact: Richard Dempsey (671-2748)
 Finance, Mon. 4/21,

7 PM. Contact: Del DeTar (878-7895) Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Tallahassee, FL PERMIT NO. 37

Green Sanctuary, Sun. 4/20, 12:30 PM. Contact: Ed Oaksford (422-0240) **Membership,** Wed., 4/2, 7:15 PM. Contact:

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- Trudy Deyle (422-1057) Personnel, Wed., 4/9, 11:30 AM. Contact: Jennifer Carver (402-0622)
- Program, Mon., 4/7, 7:15 PM. Contact: Richard Dempsey (671-2748)
 - Racial & Cultural Diversity, Tues. 4/1, 7 PM. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785)
- Social Justice, no April meeting. Contact: Lorin Pratt (893-3067)
- Youth RE, Sun. 4/6, 9:30 AM. Contact: K. Turnage (553-9416)