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Every Sunday:

9:45 AM Choir Practice

9:45 AM Adult Forum

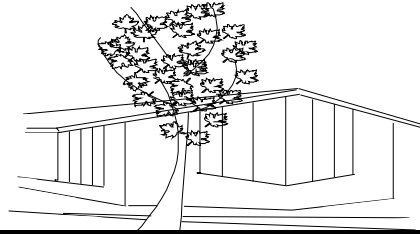
10:30 AM Child Care - until  
12:30 PM

11:00 AM Youth RE for Pre-K -  
Middle School

6 PM Youth Group  
for ages 12 - 20.

Scheduled Adult Forum  
Topics:

- Dec. 7 Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) - Alex Joyce, FSU Activist, facilitator
- Dec. 14 Green Sanctuary- Better Transportation Coalition (BTC), Paul Martell and Karla Wood, Facilitator
- Dec. 21 Each Person will Share a New Book or Favorite Book for 3 min.
- Dec 28 What's In The News?



# The Meridian

## December Sundays (11:00 AM)

### Dec. 7 | Sabbath is a Gift

It has been written in stone on the courthouse lawn (!): the commandment to "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy." It has also been written in our hearts: when we focus on what really matters, we shall find refreshment and renewal. Sabbath and sabbatical have the same root. My sabbatical winter session starts next month, and each of us can use the gift of set aside and sacred time.

**Rev. Amy McKenzie**

### Dec. 14 | Peace on Earth

*We'll share candles of joy, sorrow and concern.*

What do you think about glass half full thinking? How does this sound—"peace abounds...there is peace on earth. There is peace in our lives." We may cultivate peace, and practice peace. Let's consider how to bring about more peace through our thoughts and actions.

**Rev. Amy McKenzie**

### Dec. 21 | When the Wheel Turns (Intergenerational Yule Service)

Our celebration of the winter solstice will include all ages. Holidays are meant to be spent together, in community. Truths and rituals, both ancient and modern, will help us get through winter and back to the warmth, light, and green of spring. Our service will warm us, kindle flames of hope in our hearts, and add color to the canvas of our lives. ***Please bring a bit of nature you find near your home for our solstice table (twigs, rocks, leaves...).***

**Rev. Amy McKenzie & UUCTers** with an earth-centered spiritual practice

### Dec. 28 | Which God Was That?

We'll look at attempted communication with God and the various concepts of God that believers would talk to. Specifics to be addressed include: (1) Talking to (with?) God; (2) Do different believers worship different gods, or does God have a multiple personality? and (3) Is the one-god concept superior to the multigod one? This will include how the Christian three-in-one God concept came about.

**Speaker: Ron Crowe; Lay Leader: Jack McDevitt**

### December Highlights

- \* Saturday 6th, Noon: Season of Caring Luncheon
- \* Saturday 6th, 6 PM: Tree Decorating & Kids Fun Night
- \* Friday 12th, 6:30 PM: Winterfest Holidays Celebration
- \* Sunday 14th following potluck: Playground & Landscaping Work Parties
- \* Saturday 20th, 3:30 PM: Yuletide Singing, off-site
- \* Wednesday 24th, 7:00 PM: Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service



## Minister's Message

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

From time to time, a phrase that dates back to my association with evangelical Christianity pops into my head. I was active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Crusade for Christ during my teenage years. Here's a blast from my past: "...I did not abandon you; it was then that I carried you." That's god talking to a man or woman who wonders about the double set of *Footprints in the Sand* except during the most difficult times; when times were tough, there was only one set of footprints. This legend reminds us that being in relation is the human condition.

This legend teaches that our lives are not difficult because god has left the building; times aren't hard because we ditched the sacred. Rather, whatever the conditions of our life, we live in relationship. In the story, god and I (or you) stroll side by side. That changes when things get tough; then god carries us through in "the arms of love"

(a song from Christian singer Amy Grant). I'm not an evangelical Christian anymore. The story resonates though.

In difficult times, what gets you through? A time resting in the arms of love? The renewal of prayer? The support of friends? Communing with nature...being open to music or art...sharing a warm beverage and chocolate?

In easier times, who walks by your side? God or Goddess? A mysterious presence? Convivial friends? Neighbors who work for social change? Your spouse?

Whatever our individual beliefs, spiritual growth comes through relationship. May we seek out relationships based on love and respect with other people and the rest of the interdependent web. May we grow in relation to something greater than ourselves and make the most of

the gift of companionship and support.

This is the season of both giving and receiving. So, live side by side with others. Carry someone else. And allow yourself to be carried in turn.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of being carried, does anyone plan to do the Tallahassee Winter Festival Jingle Bell Run? I thought I'd try running it this year (run/walk, whatever). It's my first time, and though I don't think I'll need to be carried out of there on a stretcher, it would be nice to have company on the journey from start to finish line.

Here's to Going Through It Together,  
(Rev.) Amy

Winter Festival Jingle Bell Run

Saturday, December 6, 6:45 PM

For registration information:

[http://talgov.com/citytlh/parks\\_recreation/winter/jbrun.html](http://talgov.com/citytlh/parks_recreation/winter/jbrun.html)

## Denominational Affairs

### UUA Trustee Tidbits

by Joan Lund

This is my second effort at staying in communication with Florida UUs. There is much on which I could write but, due to recent conversations with UUs, I think I'll write some information about the **roles of the UUA President and our UUA Moderator**.

**The President**, at this time Rev. William Sinkford, is the chief executive officer of the Association and is an ex-officio, without vote, of all standing committees of the Association, except the Nominating Committee and the Ministerial Fellowship Board of Review. The President is also a member of all standing committees of the Board except the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The President of the UUA is elected every four years

by the delegates at General Assembly, and is eligible to serve two terms. Rev. Sinkford's first term ends in 2005.

The President is a paid officer of the Association. The Association President is our national spokesperson and is the voice of our denomination's "stand" on important social and justice issues. His role and activities are so varied and important that they are impossible for me to summarize adequately, and I suggest looking at the UUA website, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), where it is easy to find his speeches, letters, etc., and photos.

**The Moderator**, also elected by the delegates at General Assembly, serves a four year term and is eligible for two terms. The Moderator presides at General Assemblies and meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The Moderator

represents the Association on special occasions and assists in promoting its welfare in various ways. The Moderator has the top volunteer position in our Association.

In October, 2003, the Moderator, Diane Olson, resigned for personal and health reasons thus leaving an approximate two-year unfulfilled term. In the case of a Moderator resignation the Board of Trustees fills the position until the next regular General Assembly at which time an election is held. We, the Board, interviewed five declared candidates with carefully prepared questions, cast secret ballots, and filled the Moderator position by electing Gini Courter, who will serve until June, 2004, when an election will be held for the one remaining year of Ms. Olson's term.

## Announcements



### Home-made Goodies

If you could bake some home-made goodies for UUU exam-week survival kits, contact Campus Ministry Coordinator Chelsea Fox (chelsuu@yahoo.com, 222-3931).

### Bowls to Spare?

If you have more china or plastic soup bowls than you need, how about donating a few to the UUCT kitchen? That way we won't have to supplement what is there with paper bowls for the Campus Ministry soup lunches.

### Alternative Christmas Market

Will be held at: John Wesley UMC on Old St. Augustine Road, December 6 (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM) and December 7 (1:00 - 5:00 PM) and Christ Presbyterian Church on Bannerman Rd., December 12 (6:00 - 9:00 PM) and December 13 (8:00 - 10:00 PM).

For alternative gifts of goats, cows, pigs, etc. to people in need around the world, contact Heifer International.

### Attention Committees

Committees should begin now to think about and discuss plans for the next fiscal year, FY 2004 - 2005. For the Church Council meeting in mid-January with the VP for Finance, you should have put together your program plan narrative, budget request, and any fund raising proposals. Questions? Contact VP for Finance Del DeTar (878-7895 or ddetar@infionline.net).

### Visitor Brochure Available

An updated UUCT Visitor Brochure is ready and available Sundays at the Visitor Table or during the week from the church office. If you have friends or co-workers who might be interested in our church, pick up copies and share it with them. It's a great introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our church.

### Could You Help Once a Month?

For the next few months, could you give an hour or more once a month - either at the regular, second Saturday workday or at a weekday or weekend time convenient to you? Take a look at the lists posted on the "What's Happening at UUCT?" bulletin board and let us know what you'll help with. Contacts: Francis Ventre (402-3050, mfventre@aol.com), Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com) or Maggie Geraci (877-6301, DREMaggie@comcast.net).

### Heartbeats Planning

We're looking for six "emcee-coordinators" to join in a *Love Around the World* Heartbeats concert on Saturday night, February 14. The emcee-coordinators will help in planning and introduce their culture-music/song-group at the concert. We will have groups of 15-minute musical selections from six different cultures.

We also need a Publicity Coordinator, Door Prize Coordinator, Food Coordinator, Beverages Coordinator, Kitchen Set-Up and Clean-Up Coordinator, Room Set-Up Coordinator, and Sound Manager. If interested, contact Ludy Goodson (ludy8@juno.com, 531-9819).

### Donations of stock

If you wish to give a donation to UUCT in the form of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, please contact Joan Patterson (309-1248 or patterson090@comcast.net) or Del DeTar (878-7895 or ddetar@infionline.net). Donations of stock may be made to fulfill your annual pledge, your pledge for the Capital Campaign, or for any special fund of the church. Gifts of equities or bonds are particularly appropriate as we approach the end of the year if you wish to take advantage of the tax-related deduction.

### Help UUCT and Yourself!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR to pay FY 2003 - 2004 pledges in full or in whatever increment works for you by December 31, 2003. It could reduce your income taxes and help UUCT meet its financial obligations.

### Mark Your Checks

- Note the purpose of every check in the memo line (pledge, UUSC...)
- Write separate checks for the operating budget (payable to UUCT) and Capital Campaign (payable to UUCT Building Fund).

### 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.

### UUCT 50th Scrapbook

A UUCT 50th Anniversary Scrapbook is in the works! Do you have pictures and/or memories of UUCT's first 50 Years? If so, we'd love to include them in the scrapbook. Please collect your photographs and memories, and give them to Jennifer Carver (with a description of the event, people in the photo, etc.) for inclusion.

It's best to include original photos in the scrapbook, so if we can keep them, that's great. If not, please scan them (or we can do it) and give them to us by email. If you have stories, we'd love them too! If you want to help (or learn how) make cool scrapbook pages for our book, contact Jennifer Carver (402-0622 or phantomscv@yahoo.com).

## Appreciation



### To:

- \* **Joan Patterson, Barbara Sterling, Jean Chulak, Van Fox, Erik Gern, Carolyn DuBard, Dave and Nancy Harvey, Rod Oldenburg, Al Starr, and Gwendolyn Waldorf** for greeting on Sunday mornings 10/26-11/16.
- \* **Linda Winn-Brown, University UUs, Lorin Pratt, Mary Caine-Haf Dahl, and everyone** who helped with hosting hospitality 10/26-11/16.
- \* **Dan Damerville, Susan Angel, and University UUs** for being clean up "heroes" and **everyone else** who helped with clean up 10/26 - 11/19.
- \* **Jennifer Carver, Danny Lambert, Ansel Bailey-Mershon, Randall Gann and Chelsea and Van Fox** for cooking and serving the November Shelter meal, and belated thanks to **Marcus Austin and Dominick Valenti** for helping with the October meal, in addition to those listed last month.
- \* **Van and Chelsea Fox, Sara Reece, Kathie Mackie, Kim Ross, Jerri Lee Wagner, Pam Hoskins, Lorin Pratt, Linda Winn-Brown, Danny Lambert Jessica Whitworth, Suzanne Freynik, and Ansel Bailey-Mershon** for helping with the Campus Ministry Soup Lunch fund raiser in November.
- \* **Norene and Tom Chase, Elinor Elfner and John Whitton, Peggy Lentz and Ray Tucker, Heike and Jonathan Sanford, Katherine Hansman-Spice and Byron Spice and Barbara Sterling** for hosting Dinners for 8 this fall.
- \* **All who walked** in October's Crop Walk to relieve hunger locally and worldwide and **all who sponsored** a walker.
- \* **All who brought food and helped** with set up and kitchen clean up for the lovely reception following the November 22 Memorial Service for Patty DeTar.
- \* **Will Adkins, Tom and Norene Chase, Dexter Easton, and Joan Patterson** for helping John Murphy following his recent car accident.
- \* **Sara Reece** for painting the wall behind the Giving Tree in Room L and **Tom Chase and John McDevitt** for hanging the tree and the bronze wall plaques recognizing three former members who made significant contributions to UUCT's development.

### Workday Appreciations

For the November 8 playground workday, thanks to: **Bruce Brandt, Don Berger, Tom Chase, Nina Cline and Sebastian Fox, Randall Gann, Maggie, Scott, Devin, Dylan, Harper and Harris Geraci, Dave Harvey, Pam, Walter, Becky and Katie Hoskins, Mimi Jones and Bill Brubaker, George Knight, Joe Lama, Rev. Amy McKenzie, Mary Persons, Allen Turnage, Jonathan and Sarah-Meike Sanford, Steve Urse and Xing Wei.**

For the November 15 workday, thanks to **Don Berger and Dave Harvey** for getting electricity to our UUCT street sign lights once again and to **Tom Chase** for hanging window blinds in the nursery and Room L.

And thanks to **Barbara Sterling** for her weekly attention to keeping our street-front plantings looking so nice, and to **Victor Venos** for all the little things he does on Sundays and during the week to help out in the area of Buildings and Grounds.

### Yard Sale Appreciations

By Maria Mena

The success of our yard sale rests on the shoulders of countless volunteers who generously donated their time and energy. I want to give special thanks to **Carolyn and Howard Pardue** for the scrumptious homemade lunch for our Friday volunteers and to **Grace Martin**, who got up at the crack of dawn to accompany me on Friday and help me get things going.

For help with transportation, thanks to **Bruce Brandt, Mary and Steve VanSciver and Byron Spice**. I also want to thank everyone who generously donated of their time and energy to sort, stack, move and endlessly rearrange mounds of "stuff": **Susan Snyder, Mimi Jones, and Mary Persons** (who can price anything with the blink of an eye); **Joan Patterson, Jerri Lee Wagner, Margaret Mooney, Kathie Mackie and her mother, Beryl Cassiday** (it wouldn't be a yard sale without you!), **Earl and Eleanor Enge, Jean and Joe Chulak, Jennifer and DeWayne Carver, Duncan Haldane** (who made endless trips carrying items to people's cars!), **Dave and Nancy Harvey, Dorothy Mann and Randall Gann.**

I am particularly indebted to **Mary Persons, Steve Urse, Pam Hoskins and Tom Chase** who stayed late on Saturday to help me clean up and cart leftover items to Goodwill. Last but certainly not least, a huge THANK YOU to **all of you who donated items** for our sale.

Editor's Note: And to **Maria Mena**, who coordinated the Yard Sale for the second consecutive year, a SUPER-DUPER UUCT THANK-YOU! Our total profit was \$2,011.95 for this major fund raiser for the operating budget.



## Lifespan Religious Education

### Youth Religious Education (RE)

**Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sunday, December 7, 9:30 AM**

#### YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

- **Kelley Turnage, Youth RE Committee Chair (553-9416; [kelleyturnage@hotmail.com](mailto:kelleyturnage@hotmail.com))**
- **Scott Geraci, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair (877-6301, [sgeraci10@comcast.net](mailto:sgeraci10@comcast.net))**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DRE), (877-6301 or [DREmaggie@comcast.net](mailto:DREmaggie@comcast.net))**

### Parents' Night Out/Kids' Fun Night

Bring your kids to UUCT on **Saturday, December 6 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.**

Food and fun for the kids will be provided. For the first hour, they will decorate the church Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Cost is \$10 for one child, \$15 for two, or \$20 for three or more, with money raised going to the Youth RE Committee. Contact DRE Maggie Geraci for information or to sign up.

### Bring Your Work Clothes!

On **Sunday, December 14** after the potluck, stick around to help finish putting together the play structure on the main playground. Get an early start on the spirit of giving by working to finish the long awaited playground. What a great gift for our children! If you have questions, want to sign up or need childcare for the afternoon, contact DRE Maggie Geraci. (Note: There will be a landscaping work party at the same time.)

### Rehearsal of Songs for Christmas Eve Play

A reminder for youth who will be singing at our Christmas Eve Service: Brief rehearsal, Sunday, December 21, 12:30 PM, Rm L.

### Guest at Your Table

At the November 23 service, children and youth received Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) *Guest at Your Table* boxes.

These are to keep on the tables where we eat throughout the holiday season, for making contributions to UUSC.

Boxes are to be returned to church the first Sunday in January. If your family did not receive a box and would like one, see DRE Maggie Geraci or Norene Chase.

### Jr. High Mountain Con

Youth and Parents interested in attending or advising for the February 6-8 Jr. High Mountain Con, contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

### Mountaincamp 2004

If you are interested in Mountaincamp 2004, the brochure is available at The Mountain's website: [www.mountaincenters.org/youth\\_pgm.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/youth_pgm.html). The registration form may also be downloaded from the website.

### YRUU (Youth Group for Ages 12 - 20)

**Meetings:** Every Sunday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM (in Room 3&6) - with members taking turns planning and leading.

### FL District Con Schedule Fall:

- December 12-14 Social Action CON Tampa
- January 16-18 All-Age CON Gainesville
- February 27-29 All Age CON Lakeland
- April 16-18 District Youth Caucus
- April 30-May 2 All-Age CON Vero Beach

### Mountain CON:

- January 23-25 Senior High CON (Get forms from, complete and return by 12/7 to Jennifer Carver)

**For more information,** call YRUU Advisors Jennifer and DeWayne Carver (402-0622) or Howard Pardue (386-1494).

### Adult Enrichment

#### ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

- **Bruce Brandt, Adult Enrichment Coordinator ([blbrandt@earthlink.net](mailto:blbrandt@earthlink.net); 893-5511)**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education ([DREmaggie@comcast.net](mailto:DREmaggie@comcast.net); 877-6301).**

Many people have taken advantage of opportunities to grow spiritually and intellectually this past fall. *A Religion of Nature*, *Morningsong*, and *Tai Chi* have finished their courses of study. *The Artist's Way* continues, and a new group studying Buddhism has begun. Now we are looking forward to the winter semester, with some new classes beginning in January.

Take a look at the descriptions below and call the people listed to get more information and to let them know that you are interested. Sign-up sheets will be available at the RE table Sundays. Please use them.

### New Classes Starting in January:

A Seminar entitled ***Understanding the Bible, an Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals***, based on the book of the same name written by Rev. John A. Buehrens will be offered four consecutive Thursdays at 7:00 PM starting January 8. The seminar will be led by Rev. Harold Hawkins. Contact Bob Kenon (878-3647) to purchase the book or get more information.

## *Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)*

Reducing our impact on the earth can result in life styles that are better for us in many ways. To that end, Kathie Mackie and Maggie Geraci will organize a group to study **Voluntary Simplicity** and then the followup **course, Sustainability**. The course is designed to be group led. Each week a different member of the class will be assigned a chapter in the workbook to present for discussion.

The class will meet Saturdays at 10 AM and start as soon as we have at least 10 people signed up. We will be using workbooks entitled *Discussion Course on Voluntary Simplicity* and *Discussion Course on Choices for Sustainable Living* by the Northwest Earth Institute.

Contact Kathie Mackie (385-5115 or [uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)) to sign up or for further information.

**Evensong** enables participants to explore the sources of meaning in their lives, their personal faith histories, and other religious questions through "check-in", meditation, readings, reflection, art, and discussion. It is a wonderful way to get to know other group members more deeply than is possible through casual conversation.

This class is strongly recommended to new members and persons considering membership as a way to get to know other members of our community. The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM, starting January 15. Contact Bruce Brandt at 893-5511 or [blbrandt@earthlink.net](mailto:blbrandt@earthlink.net) for more information.

How's your elevator speech? Come to **Articulating Your UU Faith**.

Curriculum materials from the UUA will form the basis of a class to be lead by Trudy Deyle and Jennifer Carver on five Monday evenings from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM starting February 2. Figure out what you believe and how to explain it to friends and relations who have a hard time understanding Unitarian Universalism. Contact Trudy Deyle at [gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com) or 422-1057 for more information.

**Program on Wayne Dyer.** In the coming year Dick Leinberry will offer a series of classes using psychologist and author Wayne Dyer's tapes as seen on PBS. Once a month we'll watch part of the tapes and then have a discussion. These inspirational tapes are "Ten Secrets for Success and Inner Peace" and "There's a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem". Contact Dick Leinberry (386-4977; [rlibrary@nettally.com](mailto:rlibrary@nettally.com)).

### **Continuing classes and groups:**

**The Artist's Way** workshop meets Saturday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 AM. The class does not always meet in Room L, due to a metal-works project they're working on. So if interested in attending, contact Amy Mann at [amann@infionline.net](mailto:amann@infionline.net) or 222-1420.

**New UU** sessions are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT. The next sessions are Tuesdays, January 20 and 27, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, and will be taught by UUCT members Annette Pearce and Byron Spice. Location: Room L. Subsequent sessions will be Mondays, April 5 and 12, taught by Rev. Amy and a church member. Contact the church office (385-5115, [uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, [gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com)) if interested.

### **OPEN PARTICIPATION**

- **Adult Forum, Sun., 9:45 -10:45 AM, Room L.** Open to everyone. See front page for topics. Contact Norene Chase (422-1985).
- **Women's Spirituality Group.** Meets on Mondays at 7:15 PM off-site. Contact Bonnie Foster (539-5563).

### **UU BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP**

A new UU Buddhist Fellowship of Tallahassee (UUBFT) has formed and is meeting twice a month at UUCT. Eighteen people have signed up for its email list, and ten met on November 10 to plan its future. Meetings will be at 7:00 PM on the second and fourth Mondays for about 90 minutes, in the church sanctuary. Members will take turns presenting and facilitating. On November 24, the topic was Buddhist history, facilitated by Anne Rudloe. Here's the upcoming schedule (with advanced readings of not more than 30 pages to be distributed at the prior meeting):

12/8 - Pema Chödrön's When Things Fall Apart, William Riedell

12/22 - Continuing on Pema's book, Kriss Hensley

All are welcome - from both the UUCT and larger communities! Many different traditions will be covered. For more information, contact Anne Rudloe at 984-5297 or William Riedell at 562-0739. Learn more about the UUBF movement at web site: <http://www.uua.org/uubf/>.

## Campus Ministry Corner

By Chelsea Fox, Campus Ministry Coordinator

December brings the Fall semester to a close. The majority of this month will be spent preparing for final exams, taking final exams, and heading home for the holidays. Our last Monday night meeting of the semester will be on December 8, when we will have a farewell party for those of us who are graduating or leaving town.

At that time I'll also be giving the students "Exam Week Survival Kits" - full of items to help the stressed student while he or she studies. I'd like assistance in baking some homemade cookies to go in these kits, so if you're a baker, please consider making some of your favorite cookies or brownies to give to the UUUs.

The University UUs will meet for Coffee Hour every Friday in December except for the 26th. Regular discussion meetings will resume the week of January 12.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or willingness to help:

chelsuu@yahoo.com ~ 222-3931

## Green Corner

By Steve Urse, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair



### Making the World a Better Place One Step at a Time!

#### The UUCT five acres has been invaded by Exotic Pest Plants.

Although some of these plants are quite beautiful and have in the past been sold by nurseries, they are altering plant communities by displacing native species, changing ecological functions or hybridizing with natives. Ben Fusaro, Ed Basehart, both Master Wildlife Conservationists, and I walked the grounds assessing the trees and plants and marked many exotic invasives with orange tags.

The worst offenders are heavenly bamboo (nandina), coral ardisia, Chinese privet and Japanese climbing fern. We also have some mimosa, camphor tree and sword fern. All are on the Florida Exotic Pest Council's 2003 list of Invasive Species under Category One (see [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org)).

Removing the red berries of nandina and coral ardisia is a good first step. These plants must be removed before totally taking over our urban forest. It will take a combination of digging, cutting and applying herbicide. The good news is that we do not have air-potato, Chinese tallow, kudzu or taro (a form of elephant ear). For great photos and more info on identification and control, check the following US Forest Service field guide, [Nonnative](#)

#### Invasive Plants of Southern Forests.

which will be placed in our new UU Library. Thanks to Cathy Briggs for this recent and helpful donation. Do you have any of these invaders in your yard?

More good news is that because of personal contact by Green Sanctuary committee members **we now have almost 50 pledges to Combat Global Warming** by reducing energy use and by eating more local and organic vegetables and less meat. Remember these pledges can be customized to better fit your household.

#### **Under the Food for Thought and Action pledge,**

some have commented that it is difficult to find local produce. A solution is two Farmers' Markets. One is at Market Square off of Timberlane and the other is Downtown. Both offer produce by local farmers from north Florida and south Georgia. Farmer Herman Holley and his wife, Louise Devine, sell their Leon County raised vegetables on Saturdays at Market Square. They also send out a weekly email Farm Report about life on the farm, what will be offered and how weather is affecting farm produce. To receive this report, write to [farmerherman@igc.org](mailto:farmerherman@igc.org).

To take an additional step to Combat Global Warming, Public Interest Lawyer Deb Swim recently told

Sunday Forum participants about the **City of Tallahassee Utilities' Green Power Choices** for city and county residents. Individuals can pay an extra \$10, \$15 or \$20 to choose one of three alternatives to bad, brown (more polluting) power and insure some of your electricity bill goes to green resources like solar or bioenergy or wind. To learn more or to sign up call Sterling Planet at 1-800-473-1348 or visit the city's website [www.talgov.com/cityth/utilities/electric/gfy.html](http://www.talgov.com/cityth/utilities/electric/gfy.html).

**Three more Toyota Prius energy efficient hybrid automobiles** will be gracing the UUCT parking lot. Sally Andersen, Isabel Sheridan, and Cheryl Ward have purchased or ordered the new, improved 2004 models! Cheryl received the first one that came to Tallahassee.

Finally the GS Committee wants to recognize and **thank three local businesses who contributed to the Plant Sale:** Native Nursery and Tallahassee Nursery for plants and flowers and Ladybird Organics for wormcastings. Their contributions were a big step towards reaching our goal to have sufficient funds for UUCT to join as an institution the UU Seventh Principle Project and Big Bend Environmental Forum.

## *Social Justice*

### **Riley House Museum**

#### **Rock-a-thon.**

- December 6, 9 AM - 2 PM.
- Our annual **fundraiser** for Tallahassee's African American museum.
- Come to rock (in a rocker) and to celebrate the season.
- Part of the Winter Festival
- It's not too late to be a sponsor! See Isabel Sheridan at the event.

#### **Blended Lives**

- Week of January 26, 2004
- Topic: Civil Rights: 1954-64
- Symposium - Tentative date: January 27
- Tour - Saturday, January 31
- Speakers: National and local participants in Civil Rights

### **Harmony Camp 2004**

All is harmonious as we wait to hear the decision on our grant application to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) sometime before Christmas. We meet **Sunday, December 7, 12:40 PM**, to construct a time line for task completion in preparation for camp.

The Board approved creation of a **Harmony Camp Fund** for year-round donations for scholarships for next summer's camp. One hundred sixty dollars has already been donated.

### **Interfaith Conference on Religious Freedom**

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr., the International Association of Religious Freedom (IARF) and the National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ) are co-sponsoring an interfaith conference entitled "UNDER SIEGE: Religious Freedom in a Post-9/11 World." The conference will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater from January 15 - 17.

The conference will feature: keynote speeches by the Rev. John Buehrens, former UUA President, Dr. Darrell Fasching, Professor of Religion at USF, and Mr. Paul Andrews, board member, Council for a Parliament of World Religions; panel discussions on "Religious Tolerance & Understanding: Can't We All Just Get Along?" "Terrorism & Religion," "Hate Crimes," and "Improbable Pairs: Developing Interfaith Partnerships"; small group

discussions; and, a field trip to the Holocaust Museum.

Other organizations that are participating in the conference include The First Amendment Center, The Southern Poverty Law Center, People for the American Way, and the Florida Holocaust Museum. The conference will culminate with a musical celebration featuring groups from different religious/spiritual traditions.

The conference fee is \$100 for adults, \$60 for students and one-day participants. The cost of the program includes meals and one year's membership in the IARF. For more information, please contact Bill Norsworthy or Abhi Janamanchi (727-531-7704).

### **TEAM (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry): Values, Justice and Power Workshop**

Monday, December 8, 6:30-8:00 PM, Ray of Hope UMC, 2821 S. Monroe St.

UUCT was one of the congregations that started TEAM and this workshop is for those who want to learn more about why and how an interfaith group can accomplish social change. Contact: Rev. Amy (383-9186) or Joanne Taylor (893-9024).

## *Church Photo Directory by Ken Wood*

For UUCT's 50th anniversary celebration in March we expect to have a Photo Directory of UUCT for every current member and friend. Ken Wood will be coordinator of the project, and Will Adkins will also be involved to get help from others with digital cameras, the church office and the Membership Committee.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** - Bring an image of you and yours or arrange with Ken or Will to have a digital photo taken at church. With modern scanning technology almost any medium to high resolution image will do, but try for a simple background and high

resolution. (For digital photos, resolution should be 600 dpi or higher.)

Any material that members submit will be promptly returned. Images could include: photographs up to 8x10's; color slides; negatives; CD's, floppies, flash cards (MS,SD,SM,CF). The finished pictures will be cropped as needed and reduced to 2x2 inches in size. Please identify the image with your names.

Ken wants to assemble the color pages gradually, so you may bring your images in any time - the sooner the better! We plan to have an inbox

and an outbox available on the counter at the back of the sanctuary. Please talk to Will or Ken about help with photography of church members and of images from around our beautiful church grounds and buildings.

After the pages are assembled a printer will be contacted, and a cost per copy will be determined. We are also considering posting the directory on the UUCT web-site with access limited to members and friends, via a secure password. For questions please contact Ken (229-377-8739 or [caldy23@yahoo.com](mailto:caldy23@yahoo.com)).



## Notes from The Mountain



By Linda Winn-Brown, Mountain Ambassador

### Winter Happenings at The Mountain:

Dec. 19-21, Celebrate the Gifts of Darkness & Light: Join Mountain staff members as they take you on a magical tour through time and into the wonder of now.

NEW YEAR'S at The Mountain - 3 Celebrations:

Dec. 26-28, Let's Pretend It's New Year's 1: No weekend traveling!

Dec. 30 - Jan. 1, 2004, New Year's at The Mountain: The traditional Toast in the closing of one year and the beginning of the next!

Jan. 1-3, Let's Pretend It's New Year's Too, with UUMAN! Join the UU Congregation of Metro Atlanta North for a fun-filled and thoughtful program.

Elderhostel Programs begin in March 2004.

Spring/Summer program posted on bulletin board in rear of sanctuary.

2004 Retreat! Would you like to help with the planning for Labor Day weekend 2004! I will be actively seeking volunteers in the next few months. I will be staying in the mountains most of December and can be reached at 828-349-0748, if you have any questions about The Mountain.

## About Our New Members

**Jeff Armstrong.** Jeff is a family doctor with a subspecialty in Geriatric Medicine. His wife Karen is a nurse. He often attends Sunday services with daughter Rachel and son Andrew.

He was born and raised in Tallahassee, although most of his relatives come from southeast Alabama. He did his undergraduate studies at FSU, attended medical school at the University of South Florida in Tampa, and did his residency at the University of Florida.

Jeff was a member of the Tampa UU Church. One of his interests is music; he plays the saxophone in a number of musical groups in town. Another of his interests is genealogy. He descends from a long line of preachers, both famous and infamous, and various and sundry other hell-raisers.

**Kristin King.** Kristin grew up on a farm in Buhl, Idaho. After a year of college, she married her high-school sweetheart and moved to Tucson, Arizona. Since then she's lived in San Francisco, Miami, Boston, New Orleans, and Gainesville, moving to Tallahassee in 1998. Her daughter, Amy, lives in California, and other family members in Idaho, Utah, and Oregon.

Kristin has a B.A. in psychology from San Francisco State University, but decided to nurture her first loves, writing and working with language, rather than pursuing psychology. She works as a copyeditor, currently editing adult training curricula with a state agency and freelancing as a copyeditor for book manuscripts. Through recent volunteer work, she's learned she's ready for something more creative, socially active, and fun than editing, so is beginning a career move to public relations.

Kristin says: "Although I have always been a person of passionate beliefs, I have rarely spoken out. But in February, my compelling need to speak out against the war in Iraq overcame my natural reserve, and I joined a grassroots political group to help organize local peace-related events. Since then....., I've begun to channel my talents and energies into social activism." This has included organizational work for local and statewide peace events and work in the area of animal rights. Her favorite pastimes are outdoor photography, bicycling, hiking, canoeing, and swimming; hanging out with her two cats; listening to a variety of music; cooking; and watching mysteries.

On her spiritual journey, Kristin says: "I've explored the Baha'i Faith, Sufism, Kundalini yoga, Unitarian Universalism, Buddhism, Vedanta, and several brands of Christianity. I find myself to be most in tune with Zen Buddhism and Unitarian Universalism, both of which encourage people to follow their own spiritual paths. I choose to practice both." Kristin first became a UU in San Francisco and has "always appreciated Unitarian Universalism's celebration of religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity; its commitment to humanitarian principles; its support of each individual's quest for spiritual truth; and its unflinching examination of current social and political issues."

When asked what UUCT can do for her and what she hopes to find here, Kristin responds: "The church has already given me new friends and a sense of belonging to a community of kindred spirits. I hope to deepen the connections I've made here. I recently became a member of the Program Committee, and I am chair of the Publicity Committee. I'm also a member of the newly formed UU Buddhist Fellowship. I'd like to become involved with the Green Sanctuary Committee later on."

## About Our New Members

**Danny Lambert.** Danny is a FSU undergraduate and member of our campus group. He is from Miami and lists as interests: exercise, academics (especially Political Science and Philosophy), and enjoying what he has (a free country, family, friends, etc.).

Danny is a "cradle UU" who left the church in elementary school, came back in high school and joined. He says: "Until a few months ago, I was a theist, greatly influenced by the Judeo-Christian - Muslim tradition. I have become increasingly secular of late,

especially in dealing with ethics." He appreciates Unitarian Universalism for providing a single, spiritual home in which to discuss a variety of philosophies. Danny says: "It is a good place for the open-minded to grow, without feeling threatened. In doing this, it is important to remember we hear all voices."

When asked what UUCT can do for him and what he hopes to find here, Danny replies: "The church can help realize the vision in which it was founded. This includes a lack of

arrogance toward those we do not agree with. I hope to find a community nurturing my growth in an open-minded manner. I take the liberal trench of the culture war. When I walk across no man's land to visit a conservative friend of mine, please do not shoot at me." Danny plans to stay involved in our campus ministry group, helping them when it is needed.

## Annual Canvass News

By Isabel Sheridan, 2004-05 Canvass Committee Chairperson

### Canvass 2003-2004

Here are more of the hopes and dreams members and friends shared at the Canvass potlucks. We'll list them all, from September through February.

#### **My Hopes and dreams for this congregation are:**

That the church be more interested in helping those in need.

Grow membership, grow Youth and Adult RE.

Provide a home for intelligent faith.

That it become more racially, ethnically diverse.

That it continue to provide a wonderful tolerant community of support.

To see all members volunteering.

To have 200 members/friends in a year.

RE program will become an integral part of our church -- for adults and children. Our church will be a focal point in the community.

To continue.

### Canvass 2004-2005

Would you like to **host a potluck** for this spring's Canvass potlucks? You need provide only the main course and space for 8 to 12 guests. Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785 or [iasheridan@nettally.com](mailto:iasheridan@nettally.com)) for more information.

This year you will be able to **sign up early for the potluck of your choice** before and after Sunday service all through **January**.

## Board Actions in November

By Carolyn DuBard, Executive Board Secretary

Board Actions of the November 6, 2003, Meeting of UUCT Executive Board:

\* Approved the appointment of Rod Oldenburg as the Vice President for Worship for a term ending on June 30, 2004.

\* Approved the minutes of the October 2, 2003 Executive Board meeting, as amended. Accepted the Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet for September 2003.

\* Approved revised Policies H.1.4, Bank and Brokerage Accounts, and H.1.9, Accounts Payable, as proposed by the Finance Committee.

\* Approved new Policy H.1.13, Over-expenditures and Transfers in Operating Budget.

\* Approved revised Appendix 6, Fundraisers for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year.

\* Approved a motion to allow Joan Patterson, Assistant Treasurer, to

close out the Schwab account and open an account with Ameritrade or a better/equivalent brokerage firm.

\* Approved a congregational meeting and a vote to consider closing out the construction loan, approving an increased mortgage amount, and authorizing borrowing from the Endowment. (*Note: The congregational meeting and vote have since been postponed.*)

## Church Community News

by Will Adkins, VP for Church Community (385-5071 or wmadkins@infionline.net)

### About Church Community (Part III)

*On UUCT's Holy Spirit:* Long-time UU minister Edwin Wilson (a founder of the American Humanist movement and composer of *Humanist Manifesto I*) asks us in his oft-sung hymn (#113): "Where is our holy church?" (Our holy writ? our holy one? Our holy land? Our paradise?) We sing this quest and try to find answers.

Where is this holiness? In our "community"?-- *But where is that?* Is it in our sanctuary or woodland grounds? In our new Lifespan RE building? In our minister? In our children's RE classes? In Sunday services or potlucks? In our Yard Sales or 'Fests or Heartbeats or Pig Roast? In our committee or study group meetings every week? In our District gatherings, or GA, or SUUSI? -- Or in our moral vision and principles, and our spoken "covenant" with each other?

I think it's in *everything about and of us-- whatever we say or do--* whenever we meet (at church, on email, or elsewhere)-- whenever we share our dreams, thoughts, problems, personal stories, or quarrels with the world-- and in our fights for a better and more just world for all. It is we who are our church's holy spirit-- we are our paradise, our holy land, our holy writ, our holy one!

We are the "holy spirit" that makes us "feel alive" as Unitarian Universalists. We have a rich heritage in our religious "movement" in America-- we are on the move, we are ever-changing (and ever re-creating America)-- ever growing (even though our number as a denomination is still quite small!) -- ever finding new ways to state our sense of the Right, the Good, the True, and the Beautiful-- the "holy." We honor and consecrate the larger

society by our moral vision. Ours is an "established" church-- but it is our "movement" to change it all which keeps us from dying as a UU people-- as we come to grips with our faith -- remaking it, renewing it, year after year, month by month, even day by day. And all in a very troubled, unpeaceful world.

Not to 'commune' in our church is for us to die as a church. The more we meet and try to stay in touch with each other, the more alive we are as a community. We act like a "second (or extended) family" for one another, sharing our common (and uncommon) joys and concerns. We act as a refuge home-- a safe haven of peace and re-charging our own personal "spirits."

We could "measure" UUCT's "spirit," or sense of community, by the abundance of activities we generate every week. If you look at the *Meridian* monthly calendar, you will see that we are a "livewire" church now -- becoming more so every day. Let us celebrate this fact! Keep in touch with each other! Help each other out, as needed! Sense an awakening "spirit" growing in us, ever. Keep a fire burning brightly in us and everyone at UUCT, like our Sunday UU flaming chalice.

### In Remembrance of Patty DeTar, Longtime Member at UUCT

Frances Patty Livesay DeTar, 82, died on Sunday, November 9 at Westminster Oaks. She is survived by her husband Delos F. DeTar, our church VP for Finance, four children (Carleton, Marvin, Caroline, and Martha) and 12 grandchildren. We UUs will all remember Patty in many, many ways, for all the things she did over the years to add to this church's life, in addition to her very active

political life in local election campaigns for city and county commissioners, etc., and with the Leon County Democratic party. Patty and Del attended high school together in Elgin, Illinois. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Illinois-Urbana and a master's degree in physical chemistry at FSU.

Patty and Del came to UUCT when it was UFT (Unitarian Fellowship of Tallahassee), on October 16, 1960 and Patty was very active for 43 years. She kept the early "Women's Alliance" active and was UUCT's treasurer for four years. A memorial service was held Saturday, November 22 at UUCT.

### Volunteers Ever Sought ...

1) To be a "Starter" (as needed) for the UUCT Phone Tree. We need a total of 5 "Starters" to work any call -- which means, because not everyone will be home at any one time, we need a Reserve Bank of (say) 10 "Starters." Would you volunteer to be a Reserve Starter, helping if you are in town and called on? (See the October *Meridian*.) Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary-- or call me (385-5071) or the church office.

2) To coordinate the Audio-Tape Library of Sunday service recordings (see last issue of *Meridian*). Help us keep this treasure organized and used.

3) To help with creating a "UU Locator Map" to let others know where we live in the Metro Tallahassee area -- and to help everyone, if and when needed, with things like getting to church when a car breaks down, etc. (Join Dexter Easton, Gwendolyn Waldorf, and Will Adkins in creating this reference tool which Dexter dreamed up many years ago. Other UU churches use something like this.)

## Welcome New Members

- *Jeff Armstrong*
- *Danny Lambert*

## Membership

To explore becoming a member or supporting friend contact Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057) or a Sunday greeter.

## 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, January 11.

## Dinners In Homes

*Dinners for 8* (Adults Only or Intergenerational) are being organized. Sign-up sheets for hosting and for being a guest are on the back counter of the sanctuary. Intergenerational Dinners are for families and those wanting an intergenerational experience. Parents are also welcome to attend Adult Only Dinners.

A primary purpose for all dinners is for newcomers to meet longer-term members and friends. Hosts set the menu and provide the main dish, as casual or gourmet as they like; guests bring the rest. Contacts: Dinners for 8 Coordinator Barbara Gearhart (386-7370) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

## Baby, What's for Dinner?

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

## Our Board

- \* Neil Mooney, President
- \* Jennifer Carver, Past President
- \* Richard Dempsey, President Elect
- \* Carolyn DuBard, Secretary
- \* Dexter Easton, VP for Operations
- \* Rod Oldenburg, VP for Worship
- \* Annette Pearce, VP for Social Justice
- \* Del DeTar, VP for Finance
- \* Susan Angel, VP for Religious Education
- \* William Adkins, VP for Church Community

Non-Voting Members are:

- \* Ellen Dempsey, Treasurer
- \* Joan Patterson, Asst. Treasurer
- \* Tom Chase, Collecting Treasurer
- \* Rev. Amy McKenzie, Settled Minister

## Joys and Sorrows

*We keep in our thoughts and prayers, minds and hearts...* **Del DeTar and his family** on the death of Del's wife, **Patty**, a longtime member of this congregation. **Barbara Lineberry and Bettie Greenberg** as they heal and recover from surgery. **John Murphy** as he recuperates from his recent car accident.

**Virginia Anderson** would love to have fellow UUCTers come visit her at Magnolia House in Quincy. She misses her church and welcomes visitors!

## On-going Opportunities

- **Clean Up on Sunday:** To volunteer, contact Eleanor and Earl Enge (926-9352).
- **Hospitality on Sunday:** December Hospitality Chair: Susan Snyder (907-1740).
- **Music Committee:** Members needed - anyone who loves music. Contact Al Starr (383-2556).
- **Shelter Meal:** Monday, December 8, 7:15 PM. To contribute or assist with, call Pat Farris (422-2847).
- **Sunday Service Brigade:** People needed Sat. or Sun. mornings at 9:00 to set-up chairs, etc. Contact Richard Dempsey (671-2748; richardd@nettally.com).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Jean Chulak (385-2214 or jeanchulak@aol.com).

## Nursery Volunteers Needed



Contact **Scott Geraci**, (sgeraci10@comcast.net or 877-6301 or **Holly Mackie**, hollyedythe@yahoo.com or 926-2497)

## The Committee on Ministry

Chair: Christine Boczarska (893-7079)

Bruce Brandt (893-5511)

Sara Reece (309-1933)

Rev. Amy is a non-voting member.

## Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/03) -174**
- **Current Membership - 176**
- **Current Number of Friends - 48**
- **Average Sunday Church Attendance for month of October - 100.5**
- **Average Sunday Attendance July - October 2003 - 103.6**
- **Average Sunday Attendance July 2002 - June 2003: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment: 38 (incomplete)**



## December UUCT Events

**WORLD AIDS DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00 PM.** St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 2198 N. Meridian Road. To gain hope, to learn facts, and to remember with love those who have died from HIV and AIDS. Rev. Amy will be reading a "modern" text for this yearly interfaith community gathering.

**UU DOWNTOWN CHOW-DOWN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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).

**RILEY HOUSE ROCK-A-THON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM.** See *Social Justice*. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).

**SEASON OF CARING LUNCHEON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, NOON.** All are invited to share and care for each other and to plan our strategies for caring for each other during Amy's sabbatical absence. Please put this important event on your calendar and join us for pre-holiday sharing and planning for our CARE. RSVP: Joanne Taylor (893-9024 or taylorjoanne@earthlink.net)

**TREE DECORATING, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:00 - 7:00 PM.** As part of the Parents' Night Out/Kids' Fun Night, there will be a tree-decorating party for the children at the beginning. A large evergreen tree from late Charlie Terrell's tree farm in Georgia is being cut and set up in the afternoon. Let Will Adkins know if you could help with tree set-up and hanging lights after 2:00 PM. Contact: William Adkins (385-5071, wmadkins@infionline.net).

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT/KIDS' FUN NIGHT, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:00 - 10:00 PM.** See *Youth RE*. Contact: DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, DREmaggie@comcast.net).

**DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:30 PM.** Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. In the sanctuary. Contacts: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, Katom@istal.com).

**TEAM VALUES, JUSTICE AND POWER WORKSHOP, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 6:30 PM.** (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry). See *Social Justice*.

**MOM'S NIGHT OUT, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:30 PM.** Moms with one or more children at home, come out and join us for conversation and companionship. For location contact: Kelley Turnage (553-9416).

**WINTERFEST HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6:30 PM.** Come one, come all, including children and youth, to celebrate the incoming winter season! Dress festively and bring your favorite wintertime dish to share! We plan an outdoor hot wassail and a candlelight silent moment before the lighting of our UUCT Christmas-tree, live music during dinner, seasonal music, storytelling, Christmas caroling (led by Helen Falb and the Okay Chorale), circle dancing, and general merry-making up to 9:15 PM! Contact Will Adkins, coordinator (385-5071) for more information, to participate in the evening's entertainment, or to help out with kitchen duty, etc.

**SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK, DECEMBER 14, 12:30 PM.** Bring your favorite dish to share.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 12:30 PM.** Committee chairs are reminded that they need to bring their 2004-2005

budget requests to the meeting. Submit agenda items for the meeting to Richard Dempsey at richardd@nettally.com or call him at 671-2748.

**PLAYGROUND & LANDSCAPING WORK PARTIES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1:00 - 5:00 PM.** With your belly full, join the Playground work party or the Landscape Sub-committee after the potluck to finish up work on the main playground and UUCT landscaping. This will be the Landscape Sub-committee's final workday before sun-setting (the committee disbands). There will be team leaders to show what needs to be done to finish up much of re-instituting the attractive, woodsy environment we had before construction. From then on, the Building and Grounds Committee, with your help, will continue with routine maintenance.

Bring work clothes, loppers, gloves, wheelbarrows, leaf-blowers, shovels, etc. Questions? Call Elinor Elfner regarding landscaping (224-3651). Contact DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, DREmaggie@comcast.net) or Francis Ventre (402-3050, mfventre@aol.com) regarding the playground, and also see the article under *Youth RE*.

**YULETIDE SINGING, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 3:30 PM.** All interested are invited to join the Okay Chorale in singing to fellow UUCTers. We'll be carpooling from the church, leaving promptly at 3:30. Our first stop will be Quincy to sing for Virginia Anderson and other residents of Magnolia House. Virginia is our oldest local UU, turning 95 on December 26th! Contact: Helen Falb (309-6853, helen@townbeacon.com).

**YOUTH SONG REHEARSAL, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 12:30 PM.** Briefly in Room L, for Christmas Eve.

## *Social Activities, Events after December & District Events*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24,**

**7:00 PM.** Our traditional intergenerational service, this year with a Winter Solstice Pageant and candle lighting ceremony. The evening's offering will be given to ECHO, a local organization supported by churches and helping those in need. Also bring clothing, blankets and canned goods for ECHO to give to those needing them, and toiletries for residents at The Shelter.

**MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES.** Will not meet in December. January's meeting to celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday will be announced at website. Contact: Rosa Morgan (668-0885, [www.multiculturalTal.org](http://www.multiculturalTal.org)).

### **UUCT Social Activities**

See events write-ups for details. Contact Ludy Goodson (531-9819, [ludy8@juno.com](mailto:ludy8@juno.com), or with a note given to her on a Sunday) regarding possible UUCT Social Events. **Check Social Activities section of UUCT website for more activities:** [www.nettally.com/uuct](http://www.nettally.com/uuct).

- UU Downtown Chow-Down, Wed. Dec. 3, 11:30 AM
- Jingle Bell Run, Sat. Dec. 6, 6:45 PM (Contact: Rev. Amy)
- Peace Dances, Sat. Dec. 6, 7:30 PM
- Mom's Night Out, Tues. Dec. 9, 6:30 PM
- Second Sunday Potluck, Dec. 14, 12:30 PM

### **BOARD GAMES FOR ADULTS!**

Archaeological excavations of Mayan temple complexes, civilization-building in Mesopotamia, undersea exploration, and more. Contact Gary Robinson ([chuft@comcast.net](mailto:chuft@comcast.net) or 877-3513).

### **Events After December**

**"HEARTBEATS" CONCERT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 PM.** It is never too early to begin planning for Valentine's Day, so mark your calendars now to attend this enchanting evening of wonderful music and annual UUCT fund raiser. See Announcements for help needed. Contact Ludy Goodson to volunteer (531-9819, [ludy8@juno.com](mailto:ludy8@juno.com)).

### **District Events**

**YOUNG ADULT HOLIDAY GATHERING, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, TAMPA.** The young adult group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa will host a celebration of the season, starting at 7:00 PM. This gathering will be a time for young adults to come together in celebration of peace, love, and community. There will be a brief interactive worship, including spoken word and drumming, followed by a potluck dinner.

If you are between 18 and 35 or feel a part of the young adult community, please join us! Bring food, beer and/or wine if 21 or older, soda, juice, drums/percussion instruments, and/or holiday music. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the door for those in need. Please contact Katie Culbert for more information or to see how you can help (984-8812, [UUKatie@myrealbox.com](mailto:UUKatie@myrealbox.com)). Call 988-8188 or visit [www.uutampa.org](http://www.uutampa.org) for directions to the UUCT dome.

**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10.** Held in Bradenton, the topic is "Show us the \$\$\$\$\$" - canvass training. Contact the church office for more information (385-5115).

### **AGING WISELY WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 28, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.**

Come gather in Vero Beach with other UUs to consider the spiritual dimensions of aging. Led by the UUA's Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer. Registration \$20 (includes breakfast, lunch and materials). Forms in church office.

### **MEMBERSHIP PRACTICES WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, MARCH 13.**

An all-day workshop to be held at the UU Church of Jacksonville. Rev. Anne Odin Heller, author of *Churchworks*, will be the keynote speaker. Home hospitality and childcare during the workshop will be provided. Membership Chair Trudy Deyle plans to attend and welcomes any other UUCTers to attend with her! Contact Trudy if interested (422-1057, [gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com)).

### **SOUTHWEST CLUSTER WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, MARCH 13.**

Held in Clearwater, the topic will be "Separation of Church and State: Meeting the Challenge to Tear Down Jefferson's Wall". Contact the church office for more information (385-5115).

### **DISTRICT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, APRIL 16-18.** To be held in Oviedo.

### **Non-UUCT Events**

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Tuesday, 6:00 PM, Spiral Scouts (Rm 2 or next available room)
- Every Thursday, 7:15 PM Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Monday, December 1, 5:00 - 6 PM, Private recital rehearsal
- Friday, December 5, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, Private recital



# December 2003 Calendar of Events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>New Building</b> <b>Rm L - Large Room</b> <b>Rm C - Corner Room</b> <b>Rm K - Kitchen To Be</b> <b>Rm N - Nursery</b>	<b>1</b> 7 PM University UUs, off-site  7 PM World AIDS Day Service, off-site  7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group  7:30 PM Building & Grounds, Rm C	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM Personnel Comm., Rm 2	<b>3</b> 11:30 AM UU Chow-Down, off-site  7 PM Green Sanctuary, Rm C  7:15 PM Membership, Rm 2  7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	<b>4</b> 7 PM Board Meeting, Rm L	<b>5</b> 6 PM University UUs, off-site	<b>6</b> 9 AM - 2 PM Riley House Rock-a-Thon, off-site 10 AM Artists Way, Rm L Noon Season of Caring Luncheon, Sanctuary 6 PM Christmas Tree Decorating, Sanctuary 6 - 10 PM Kids Fun Night, Rm L 7:30 PM Peace Dances, Sanctuary
<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Youth RE Comm., Rm 2 12:40 PM Harmony Camp Planning, Rm L 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM TEAM Values, Justice & Peace Workshop, off-site 7 PM Buddhist Fellowship, Sanc. 7 PM University UUs, off-site 7:15 PM Shelter Meal, off-site 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site	<b>9</b> 6 PM Publicity Committee, Rm 2 6:30 PM Mom's Night Out, off-site 7:15 PM Comm. on Ministry, Rev. Amy's office	<b>10</b> 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	<b>11</b> 7:15 PM CIC, Rm L	<b>12</b> 6 PM University UUs, off-site 6:30 PM Winterfest Holidays Celebration, Sanctuary	<b>13</b> 10 AM Artists Way, Rm L 2-5:30 Member's Personal Event, Sanctuary
<b>14</b> 12:30 PM Potluck & Meridian Deadline 12:30 PM Church Council, Rm L 1 - 5 PM Landscaping & Playground Work Parties 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	<b>15</b> 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site 7 PM Finance Comm., Rm 2	<b>16</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting, Rm. 3&6	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM Choir, Sanctuary	<b>18</b> Noon Membership Monitoring, Rm 2	<b>19</b> 6 PM University UUs, off-site	<b>20</b> 10 AM Artists Way, Rm L 3:30 PM Yuletide Singing, meet at UUCT, off-site
<b>21</b> 12:30 PM Youth Singing Rehearsal for Christmas Eve, Rm L 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	<b>22</b> 7 PM Buddhist Fellowship, Sanc. 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Office Closed</i> 7 PM Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service, Sanc.	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Rev. Amy vacation</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	<b>29</b> 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  <i>Rev. Amy Sabbatical Winter Session 1/1-2/29/04</i>		

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

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.nettally.com/uuct](http://www.nettally.com/uuct)

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## Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

**Rev. Amy McKenzie's office hours at church:**  
Wednesday 1 - 5, Thursday 9 - 5 (Sabbatical, 1/1-2/29)

*These and others by appointment.*

E-Mail: [revamq@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:helen@townbeacon.com)

**Maggie Geraci**, Director of Religious Education,  
877-6301; [DREMaggie@comcast.net](mailto:DREMaggie@comcast.net)

**Chelsea Fox**, Campus Ministry Coordinator,  
222-3931; [chelsuu@yahoo.com](mailto:chelsuu@yahoo.com)

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### 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

- \* **Artist's Way**, Every Sat., 10:00 AM (exc. 12/27). Amy Mann (222-1420)
- \* **UU Buddhist Fellowship**, 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 PM. Anne Rudloe (984-2504)
- \* **Women's Spirituality**, Every Mon., 7:15 PM. Bonnie Foster (539-5563)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- \* Thurs., 12/4, 7 PM. Pres. Neil Mooney (893-8250)

### COMMITTEES MEET

- \* **Adult RE**, Sun., 1/18, 12:15 PM. Bruce Brandt (893-5511)
- \* **Buildings & Grounds**, Mon., 12/1, 7:30 PM. Francis Ventre (402-3050)

- \* **Capital Improvement**, Thurs., 12/11, 7:15 PM. Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- \* **Church Council**, Sun., 12/14, 12:30 PM. Richard Dempsey (671-2748)
- \* **Committee on Ministry**, Tues., 12/9, 7:15 PM. Christine Boczarska (893-7079)
- \* **Finance**, Mon., 12/15, 7:00 PM. Del DeTar (878-7895)
- \* **Endowment**, Next: January. Jim Dawson (383-1213)
- \* **Green Sanctuary**, Wed., 12/3, 7 PM. Steve Urse (385-2864)
- \* **Harmony Camp**, Sun., 12/7, 12:40 PM. Joanne Taylor (893-9024)

- \* **Membership**, Wed., 12/3, 7:15 PM. Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- \* **Music**, TBA. Al Starr (383-2556).
- \* **Personnel**, Tues., 12/2, 11:30 AM. Margaret Mooney (893-8250)
- \* **Program**, Next: Mon., 1/12, 7:15 PM. Eric Draper (668-5075)
- \* **Racial & Cultural Diversity**, via e-mail. Isabel Sheridan (668-0785)
- \* **Publicity**, Tues., 12/9, 6 PM. Kristin King (425-4658)
- \* **Youth RE**, Sun., 12/7, 9:30 AM. Kelley Turnage (553-9416)
- \* **YRUU**, Every Sun., 6:00 PM