PROGRAMS FOR JULY

July 1st, 2007 - "Annual Report from the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations" General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. This year it takes place in Portland, Oregon and our delegates, Lisa Ruckman and Paul Rowley, will come back to tell the UUUS all the happenings.
Service Leader: Rachel Christensen
Greeters: Elizabeth & Todd Paddock
http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/

July 8th, 2007 - Reverend Mia Sykes – “Litha” Litha is one of the eight solar holidays or sabbats observed by Wiccans, though the New Forest traditions tend to use the traditional name Midsummer. It is celebrated on the Summer Solstice, or close to it. The holiday is considered the turning point at which summer reaches its height and the sun shines longest.
Service Leader: Judy Minear
Greeters: Liz Kuepper & Jesse Sloan
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midsummer

July 15th, 2007 - Reverend John Higgins – “We Laugh, We Cry.” A hymn in the UU hymnal and Rev. Higgins will ask the congregation to sing one verse after another and then add comment on each verse.
Service Leader: Allan March
Greeters: Gretchen Hobby & Mark Woodruff
http://www.theinterpretersfriend.com/songs/we-if-we-cry.html

July 22nd, 2007 - Reverend Mark Spivey - “The Devil Made Me Do It: exploring the great American pastime of ‘passing the buck.”
Service Leader: Jeffri Moore
Greeters: Beth Keifer & Aaron Misiano
http://www.imlad.net/

July 29th, 2007 - Michael Scott Earl – “Confronting The Ultimate Illusion” One of our longtime speakers, Mike Earl, will be back to describe how confronting one particularly astonishing implication of scientific discovery and personal introspection can completely transform our conceptions of reality and the spiritual life.
Service Leader: Kayli Carter
Greeters: Aaron Misiano & Shannon Coleman
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

We had an opportunity this month to examine, as a congregation, who we are, and how we treat each other. What behaviors are acceptable? and how will we respond when they are out of bounds? What are the limits of tolerance and inclusion?

And out of this came a statement by Meredith Garman, co-minister at the UU Fellowship of Gainesville. He spoke of creating a "climate of tolerance". One in which we strive always to include and encourage and create a spirit which will increase the climate of tolerance, and to discourage behaviors and statements which will decrease the climate of tolerance.

This is a marvelous tool for us to use, a yardstick to help us gauge what we do and how we respond to others. For we need to be mindful that as UU's, our practice is to support a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning". And "truth and meaning" are deeply personal core values, shaped through our experience, and held in our hearts. But as a community, we define "responsible" by practicing inclusion, by working toward justice, by embracing love and abhorring hatred.

By increasing the climate of tolerance.

This is a good chance to work on your personal "elevator speech". How do you define your beliefs? Your membership as a UU? How do you explain our rich and meaningful history to someone you encounter?

Send me your elevator speech. Let's share these thoughts, work on articulating where each of us, personally finds meaning. Where do you find strength, to examine our failings, to hold up our joys and sorrows? To face the hard issues, and to celebrate community?

Let us increase the climate of tolerance. and celebrate the community.

Rachel Christensen

SUMMER RE....

Come join the fun in the Kid's RE. We'll be celebrating the fourth of July, writing bio-poems, leaning about drama and improvisation, having fun with music, and much more.

July 1  Learn about Independence Day with Jill Metz
July 8  TBA
July 15  Create Bio-poems with Joie Kohl
July 22  Musical Adventures with Alex and Jeffri Moore
July 29  TBA
Aug 5  Fun, Fun, Fun with Judy Minear
Aug 12  Drama and Improvisation guided by David McElroy
Aug 19  The Mysteries of the Labyrinth unearthed with Happy Amien
Aug 26  RE Service Rehearsal
Sept 2  TBA

We only have a few slots left for Summer RE. Let Stephanie Dryden know if you’re interested in sharing your passion with our children. drydens@earthlink.net

We welcome Michelle Smith as the new RE Teacher and Child Care Coordinator!
University UUS now offers live streaming of the services! What this means is that if you’re unable to attend the service while it’s going on, you can still listen to the service as it’s happening instead of waiting for the recorded version to be put on the Internet. To listen to the service, visit http://www.universityuus.org/audio.htm and follow the directions there.

**ADULT RE.....**

The UUUS Breakfast Club (aka Adult RE) meets at the Holiday Select Hotel Dining Room (near 434 & University Blvd.) We are discussing the book: "The Language of God," over the next several weeks. All are welcome. Contact Roy Scherer @ royhsch60@aol.com for further information.

**Alliance Programs, July 2007:**

**July 3**
- 10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
- 11:00 Board Meeting
- Noon Lunch, Board Report

**July 10**
- 10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
- 11:45 Pot Luck

**July 17**
- 10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar, make sandwiches for the homeless.
- Noon Lunch and conversation

**July 24**
- 10:30 Continuing Bazaar, Winnie Tyler will speak
- Noon Lunch

**July 31**
- 10:30 Special ‘Field Trip’ and cruise on the St. Johns River.
  Be sure to sign up ahead of time!

Nancy Kellman & Jean Siegfried
Programs

Tuesday mornings dawn with a mysterious excitement in the air. Hidden in the dark recesses of the Gore Hall storeroom treasures lurk amongst the trash. As the morning light creeps into the hallowed windows of the Hall, Unitarian Alliance members arise across the city, leave their secure homes, and converge to face the unknown together.

Treasure is what they seek. Treasure feeds the homeless, clothes the poor, nurtures the frail and frightened all across the city. These brave members know how to turn treasure to cash. It is the cash that is valued even above the treasure. At the Continuing Bazaar they know that good people will buy treasure and leave cash for worthy causes.

The fear these members face as they open the storeroom door is trash. Trash is what steals time and energy. It must be shifted, stacked, repacked, and delivered to large donation centers elsewhere.

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” wise men say. But for this small Continuing Bazaar we offer another definition:

Treasure: can be converted to cash within 3 months time, will fit on a shelf or hanger, is clean and looks like new.

Trash: leftovers from a yard sale, clothing showing wear or cat hair, and appliances missing parts or instructions.
## July 2007

### Scheduled Events of interest to the UUUS Community

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**GROUPS, CLUBS, MEETINGS:**

**Book Discussion Group Meeting:** This group regularly meets on the 4th Saturday of each month. University UUS Book Discussion Group will meet Saturday, July 28, 10 am at the church. As the group votes on their book choices each month, further information about the selected book will be posted on our website.

**Spiritual Explorer’s Covenant Group:** The Spiritual Explorers group will be taking the month of July off. (Our fearless leader, Judy Minear, is going to enjoy SUUSI for the first time!) Please enjoy the month and be ready to share your new experiences and energies with the group when they meet in August.

**Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch typically takes the summer months of July and August off. Invite a friend to lunch and share special moments with those you care about!

**Women’s Group:** The UUUS Women’s Group meets on the last Friday of the month. Please e-mail Christina1979@gmail.com or call the church office for more information! We really hope you will join us!

**Investment Group:** The purpose of this group is to examine the current and future trends in the stock, bond, currency and other financial markets. The resulting information is intended to assist participants in maximizing the return from their own investment portfolio. Meetings are usually held at 12 noon, following the service, on the first Sunday of each month. You are invited to join us! For further information, please contact Bill Long via email at billlong5@yahoo.com

**Circle Suppers:** Due to vacations and travels, our first Saturday Suppers will not be scheduled again until September. We had a wonderful time leading up to this hiatus and look forward to their renewal in September. Janet March, the diva of the “supper movement,” offered to help organize a summer gathering, if there is interest. Please let her know if you are interested in doing something over the summer.

**Zen Meditation...** We are pleased to announce the continuation of this meditation group through the summer months. They will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7 pm. Please come and bring your own mat, for comfort. July meetings will be the 2nd and 16th of July.

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With love and many thanks for sharing their gifts with us, we bid farewell to the newlyweds, Jen and Link Christensen. We wish them well as they embark on their new adventure in Chicago and hope to get updates occasionally! You will be missed (and we’ll try not to call with sound system questions!) Enjoy life!

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**COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGED...** In getting the Connection ready for print, I realized that we had changed the Council meeting to the 3rd Sunday of the month, but that I would not be here for it! Several of us will be attending SUUSI in Virginia. Please set aside the 29th, the last Sunday of the month, for the Council meeting, to be held after the service that day. If you are unable to attend, but have a report to share, you can email me or give me a call.

Thanks!

Chris Reid
Can you help: Pastoral Care Team needing information about Funeral Homes and Cemeteries?

The Pastoral Care Team is gathering information to be used by the congregation about funeral homes and cemeteries. Have you had any experiences that you would be willing to share either positive or negative about your personal dealings with these businesses that would be helpful for other members of the congregation in their time of need? We want to learn which funeral homes are not only the most economical but also provide the most helpful, caring services. Please email Sylvia Friedman at JonDoc@aol.com or leave any written information in the Pastoral Care Box in the church office.

You can always reach us for any Pastoral Care needs by calling the church any hour day or night and leaving a message in the Pastoral Care Box.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

Good July news! About 300 folks who are members of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN) are coming to Clearwater for their annual meeting, July 31st to August 5th. UUMN began in 1982 with a few dedicated UU musicians who had the desire to establish an organization whose primary purpose was to further the importance of music in UU congregations. UUMN is a professional organization of our Unitarian Universalist Association. The mission of UUMN is to advocate for music ministry in Unitarian Universalist communities and support those who provide it.

UUMN is dedicated to fostering the spirituality of music and provides mutual support, education, informational resources, and opportunities for the professional growth of UU musicians everywhere. There are almost 700 members, including but not limited to music directors, pianists, organists, ministers, choir members, and music committee chairs. As a network UUMN welcomes all musicians, including ministers, and religious educators, who support music ministry in UU congregations. Membership also includes congregations who support the UUMN's work.

Each summer the annual conference is held in a different geographical location usually in early August. The Conference features five days of sharing, learning from master clinicians, and networking with other UU musicians to enhance musical skills and share resources.

In 2002, in order to focus on strengthening the organization’s status as a professional organization the UUMN formed a Professional Leadership Development Group to develop a credentialing program and continuing education opportunities for their membership. In 2000 and 2003 the UUMN sponsored a UU Children's Choir in conjunction with the UUA General Assembly. In 2005, with the debut of “Singing the Journey”, there was a dramatically enhanced UUMN presence at General Assembly. Music was integrated into presentations, programs, and worship services in new and different ways. The UUMN offers a Mentor Program to support new UU music directors and small UU churches and fellowships in developing or improving their individual music programs, a "Good Offices" program which provides counsel and assistance to UU music staff members regarding work-related church, staff or congregational issues, and a Professional Leadership Development program with a fledgling certification process for UU music directors.

If you wish to find out more about UUMN and perhaps take part in the Conference information can be found at www.uua.org/uumn/. I look forward to welcoming UUMN Conference Attendees on July 31st. As always you can reach me at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.
2007 UUA General Assembly in Portland Oregon

The final document for the Study Action Issue, Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society, was approved with some amendments. It will take a few weeks to publish. The issue currently under study is Peacemaking. Among other things it discerns whether we should remain a "Just Wars Only" denomination or become a "Pacificist" denomination. The UUUS Social Concerns Committee will sponsor opportunities to look at the issue during the study period. More information is available at http://www25.uua.org/csw


The Responsive Resolutions passed included UU congregational efforts to protect 1) the rights of those who identify as Transgender and 2) the voting rights of minorities.

Socially Responsible Investing

*Progressive Investor* reports that 41% of the 300 U.S. real estate investment trusts are actively pursuing energy efficiency & green building upgrades and another 27% plan to do so. Developers and building owners are feeling the crunch of high energy and water costs. The additional costs of building green are quickly recouped through lower operating costs. Furthermore, clients and tenants show an increasing preference for green buildings. Real estate firms see the writing on the wall and are nervous about holding a portfolio of obsolete, inefficient buildings.

Green Sanctuary

Consumers can now factor a company's track record on climate change into their purchasing decisions for everything from sneakers to soft drinks, thanks to the Climate Counts Company Scorecard. climate-counts.org is a new non-profit organization bringing consumers and companies together in the fight against global climate change. It is funded by Stonyfield Farm and launched in collaboration with Clean Air-Cool Planet.

Share the Plate

This program benefits four local charities that we selected by congregational vote a few years ago. (1) Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida (2) Farm Workers of Apopka (3) Planned Parenthood of Central Florida (4) Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Every 3 months each of them receives a contribution from the congregation ranging from $50 to $250. The membership is scheduled to change or renew some of all of these charities at the August quarterly meeting. The social concerns committee is therefore soliciting input from the congregation on new charities to support, ones to keep supporting and ones that we should drop. Please place your comments in the Social Concerns box in the office or e-mail them to: socialconcerns@universityuus.org

UUSC

UU congregations and individuals can take an active part in the Gulf Coast recovery work by participating in the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Volunteer Program. The coordinator for this in our congregation is Chris Reid. http://www.uusc.org/gulfcoastvolunteerprogram/index.html

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Alliance for Fair Food have invited UU congregations in FL to be signatories to their letter to tomato purchasers, seeking industry-wide support for improved wages for tomato farm workers.
Directory of University Unitarian Universalist Society

UUUS Board
President Rachel Christensen...highgear3@gmail.com
Vice President Chris Reid...lcreid99@aol.com
Secretary Rhoda Levit-Binder...rlbinder@earthlink.net
Treasurer Bill Long...billlong5@yahoo.com
Trustee Kim Carter-Williams...kcarter@mail.ucf.edu
Trustee Dave Symonds...dsymonds@yahoo.com
Trustee Joie Kohl...jkohl@cfl.rr.com
Past President Allan March...Amarch@cfl.rr.com

Committee Chairs
Facilities...John McCormack...JonDoc@aol.com
Finance...Julie Symonds...jasymonds@yahoo.com
Hospitality...Ann Flick...Rflick@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu
Member Concerns...Evelyn Chiland-Long...evchiland@yahoo.com
Programs...Judy Minear...in2toning@msn.com
Public Relations...Gary Przyborski...przyborg@earthlink.com
Religious Education...Stephanie Dryden...Dryden5@trinityprep.org
Social Concerns/Green Sanctuary...Paul Gabriel Rowley...blumenbud@yahoo.com

Communications
Webmaster...Gary Przyborski...przyborg@earthlink.net
Newsletter...Chris Reid...lcreid99@aol.com
Information Tech Mgr...Paul Gabriel Rowley...blumenbud@yahoo.com

Youth
Owl...Kim Carter-Williams...kcarter@mail.ucf.edu
YRUU...Eric Christensen...HighGear3@gmail.com
YRUU...Cleveland Williams...clevewilliams@earthlink.net
YRUU...Bruce Schwartz...mybrucie@aol.com

Young Adults/Campus Ministry
Liz Kuepper...ekuepper@gmail.com

Activities
Book Discussion...Steve Hall...hallsorl@earthlink.net
Chess Club...Paul Hargett...paulh4892@aol.com
Circle Suppers...Janet March...Jmarch@cfl.rr.com
Great Decisions...Kate Adda...AddaGirl@cfl.rr.com
Investment Group...Bill Long...billlong5@yahoo.com
Lunch Bunch...Eileen Aist (contact church office)
Spiritual Explorer's...Judy Minear...in2toning@msn.com
Women's Group...Christina Miller...heartsome1@yahoo.com