

The Connection

Newsletter of the
University
Unitarian Universalist
Society

Volume 12 Issue 7

July/August 2004

Sunday Service at 10:30 am.
Religious Education for children and adults at 9:30 am.
We meet at 11648 McCulloch Rd. 1/2 mile west of Alafaya Trail
For information Call (407) 737- 4018
web site: www.universityuus.org

UNIVERSITY UUS SUNDAY SERVICES July - August 2004

July 4 (Independence Day)
Tom Borkes & Thomas Jefferson

"A July 4th Chat with Thomas Jefferson "

Tom Borkes co-founded The Jefferson Project in 2001. The long-term goal of the organization is to further education in the electronics technology industry, but it is also committed to furthering the social and political beliefs of our nation's third president.

July 11
Terri S. Fine, Associate Professor of Political Science, UCF

"The 2004 Election: New Dirt or Old Shoes"

Terri is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and other publications that explore the role and impact of political participation and democratic practice in the United States. Her presentation today will touch on key concerns of the 2000 election and how they remain relevant today. The focus will be on voter participation, the role of third parties, and institutional rules such as the electoral college process.

July 18 Rev. Mark Spivey

"Sacred Books and Paranormal Phenomena"

Mark continues his series of spiritual discussions with an exploration of seeming contradictions between the words of the bible and the mysteries of our world.

July 25 Sheila Harty

"Why Not Female Priests?"

Sheila Harty, one of our favorite scholars of church history and theology, continues her series of talks by tracing the roots of gender prejudice in Judeo-Christian traditions.

August 1 TBA

August 8 Rev. Mark Spivey

"The Five Wishes: taking the 'guesswork' out of serious illness"

As a pastoral counselor and professional thanatologist, Mark has been approached by a number of our congregation members about discussing the sensitive issue of how to deal with serious illnesses in their families.

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SUNDAY SERVICES CONTINUED

August 15 Sheila Harty

"The Sunnis and the Shiites"

Once again theological scholar Sheila Harty draws upon her academic research into the history and traditions of Islam to help us to better understand the fractious divisions within the Middle East.

August 22 Kierstin Homblette

"Women's Issues and the UUA"

Kierstin is a home-grown product of the First UU of Orlando. While at the University of Pittsburgh she joined the Campus Women's Organization and later obtained an internship with NARAL Pro-Choice America. After earning a BS in biology and a BA in anthropology with a minor in African Studies, she moved to DC to work as a Clara Barton intern at the UUA.

August 31 Rev. John M. Higgins

"TBA"

John is Minister of the UU Church of Brevard. Prior to entering the UU ministry, John was a teacher, professor, and college administrator. He holds A.B. and M.A. degrees in education from Los Angeles State College (now California State University at Los Angeles); a doctorate in education from the University of Toronto; and a master of divinity degree from Meadville/Lombard School of Theology.

BRIEF HISTORY OF WHO WE ARE

The Unitarian Universalist tradition originates in two New England faiths that started as radical Christian alternatives to Puritanism. Very simply, Unitarians rejected the Trinity, the Universalists endorsed universal salvation, and these two liberal themes joined forces in 1961, when the new denomination dropped its Christian trappings and ceremony and became a humanist, intellectual refuge for those disaffected by other faiths.

From the beginning, Unitarians have put their energies into social and political causes. They have supported abolitionism, women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, the anti-nuclear movement. They were anti-Vietnam war, pro environment, and always concerned with social justice.

In recent years, Unitarians have been re-focusing on the spiritual journey. But when our national president, the Rev. William Sinkford, called on us last year to reclaim "a vocabulary of reverence," he was widely criticized. Still, more and more Unitarians, especially the younger people, want to be part of a religious community. To answer that need, our own Church has been consciously balancing intellectual and spiritual content in our services and welcoming newer members to leadership positions.

The Editor

Who Among Us ... have been together since their second grade?

SIGN UP TODAY FOR A SPARKLER OF A SATURDAY SUPPER, July 3!



Children's R. E. Classes
Sundays, 9:30—10:30

CHILDREN'S R.E.

During the summer months, members of the congregation share their passion with the children. This is a chance for the community to come together, and allow the generations to get to know one another. Regular religious education classes will resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

UUUS Summer fun schedule

July 4 Ever wonder why Italians eat pasta and Mexicans eat burritos? **Eileen Aist** will teach the kids about the history of food, and will even bring in some treats for us to sample!

July 11 Evelyn Chiland, an amazing singer who performs regularly and has been singing all her life, will turn our kids into opera lovers!

July 18 Think collage is just a craft? **Gretchen Hobby** will show the kids how collage can really be fine art!

July 25 Judy Scherer, AKA Queen Elizabeth I, will appear in full regalia to explain the history of religion to the children!

August 1 Kathy Giordano introduces the kids to the fine art of muffin making! Yum!

August 8 It's water fun day! Bring a bathing suit and a towel. Better yet, bring an extra of each to share with those who forget. We will be throwing water balloons, mastering the slip-n-slide, and having a blast! **Dave Potchen** is in charge.

August 15 Linda Fessel, volunteer with the Winter Park Police Department will be teaching the kids all about fingerprints. Kids will have their own print sheet to take home!

August 22 Oh, go fly a kite! **Robbie Boerth** and **Stephanie Dryden** are both teachers at Trinity Prep, and they plan teach you a thing or two about kite-making! Each kid will have a home-made kite to take home.

August 29 and Sept 5 It's show time! **Derrie Frost** will help the kids put together a short performance for the September 5 service.

Alliance Programs for July:

July 6

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

11:00 Board Meeting

Noon Lunch, Board Report

July 13

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

11:30am Lunch at Piccadilly Cafeteria

1840 E. Colonial Drive

July 20

10:30am Continuing Bazaar, make sandwiches for the homeless.

Noon Lunch; Presentation by Marilyn

Stewart, Professor Emerita of

Anthropology at Rollins College

on The Historical Jesus

July 27

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

Noon Lunch; Autobiography presentation

by member Rosemary DuRocher

Programs for August:

August 3

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

11:00 Board Meeting

Noon Lunch, Board Report

August 10

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

Noon Potluck Salad Lunch

August 17

10:30am Continuing Bazaar, make sandwiches for the homeless.

Noon Lunch

August 24

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

Noon Lunch

August 31

10:30am Continuing Bazaar

Noon Lunch

Penny Kfare Jacobs

Vice President, Programs

Alliance News

To members and friends, the following is an example of your contributions at work. The Alliance gives money to two Mid Fla Tech emergency funds: part is used for career necessities and the other for home emergencies. Ruth Russell, who teaches at Mid Fla Tech is our liaison. She reports that we're helping a man taking the culinary course buy a set of kitchen knives and uniforms. Also, we're assisting a woman in the mechanic's course buy a tool chest and tools. These people are trying to better themselves and we hope our small donation encourages them.

Shirley Jantzen.

ANSWER:



Murette & Ray Ferguson

Four American Presidents have been Unitarians: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Millard Fillmore, William Howard Taft--and at least one Presidential candidate, Adlai Stevenson. (Although Unitarians claim him, Thomas Jefferson never actually "signed the book.")

MOST VALUABLE COUPLE

If we were impolitic enough to ask ourselves to name our most fascinating dynamic duo, Kathy Parry and Gary Przyborski would most certainly be on the short list. The handsome, ebullient social critic and his delicately profiled goddess of the garden have, in only a few months of membership, endeared themselves to us in indispensable ways.

From the moment he introduced himself to the congregation as Kathy's "boyfriend" we knew Gary would be straightforward, open, and impulsive. We learned quickly we could always count on him to issue a pithy statement or initiate an independent social/political project. (We could also depend on his understanding and good humor if we didn't embrace all of his causes!)

We found also he is almost limitlessly cooperative, an accomplished and willing photographer and, as an electronic engineer, a natural for the Web Site, where his creative instinct has been a generous bonus. Since he took hold last fall, our Web Site has become a fountain of information, a unique creative display, and a dependable touchstone for those who want to know what's going on at our Church *now*.

We've known Kathy as a yoga expert and physical therapist. (We didn't know she'd been a Vista volunteer or had once worked on an Apache reservation, or spent 20 years in South Florida health centers and universities specializing in problems of neck and back pain and diabetes.) From 2001 – 2003 she headed UCF'S Physical Therapy Program. To us, she is the determined and active guardian of our landscape, as well as an innovative designer. The exquisite new gate in our Secret Garden Wall is there because of her initiative. All these blessings in a couple we'd grown to feel belonged to us are why it came as a shock when, in late May, they announced they were ready to exchange sunny, humid Florida for sunny, arid Arizona. Apparently they were willing to give up jobs and friendships and even us to seek a change of lifestyle.

After a few weeks' absence they're back, although neither will say for how long. Arizona turned out to be "too hot," but Florida is still "too humid"—frustrating to Gary the long-distance runner. The highlight of their trip was getting married, the logical outcome of their original meeting at a Zen retreat and immediately connecting, as in "Some Enchanted Evening."

Kathy and Gary Przyborski are on anybody's list of Most Valuable Couples, so let us pray (yes, *pray!*) they will opt to keep their adventures close to home.

**GARY****KATHY****MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY CHANGES,
ADDITIONS**

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DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

THE CONNECTION

Newsletter of the UUU Society
Orange County, Florida

Meetings held at 11648 McCulloch Road
1/2 mile West of Alafaya Trail
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Our web site at www.universityuus.org



Welcome

This is the newsletter of the University Unitarian Universalist Society. If like many others you are searching for religious alternatives which are intellectually more appropriate to modern concerns and times, we invite you to come check us out.

We endeavor toward love, understanding, tolerance, acceptance, and honesty to arrive at a place where religion fits the individual. We invest a significant portion of our budget in providing infant care and programs for youth.

If you are concerned about modern societal problems and their implications, we encourage you to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. at 11648 McCulloch Rd. 1/2 mile west of Alafaya Trail.

DATES TO REMEMBER



July and August 2004

Potluck Lunch - July 11
Board Meeting - July 14
Book Discussion - July 24
Council Meeting - July 28

Potluck Lunch - Aug. 8
Board Meeting - Aug. 11
Council Meeting - Aug. 26
Book Discussion - Aug. 28

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