

The Connection

Volume 14, Issue 3

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY, HAPPY SPRING!!

March, 2010

PROGRAMS FOR MARCH

ADULT RE (OFFSITE)
SUNDAY 9:00 AM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SUNDAY 9:30 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE
10:30 AM

BEACON (TEENS)
SUNDAY 6-8 PM

FIND US/WRITE US:

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ORLANDO, FL 32817

407 737-4018

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

- www.universityuus.org

March 7 Jeff Nall " Reverend King's Philosophy of Nonviolence"

Jeff is a writer, speaker and peace activist. He highlights the strong anti-war sentiment of Dr. Martin Luther King which has been largely ignored in media tributes. Jeff's book, Perpetual Revolt, calls for spiritual, religious and secular progressives to unite against war, intolerance and fundamentalism of all kinds.

March 14th Rev Mark Spivey "Principles of an Earth-Centered Tradition"

Rev. Spivey continues with part 3 of his series on UU traditions which are based on nature's rhythms and seasons. Rev. Spivey remains one of our most popular speakers and serves with a self- avowed irreverence.

POTLUCK AFTER SERVICE

March 21 Doug Worthington " Hope: It's Medical and Spiritual Implications"

After serving with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, Doug spent 30 years in independent schools as an administrator, teacher and coach. He organized the speaker exchange program for the UU church in Marion county. His talk focuses on how hope plays a role in health, wellness and spiritual well-being.

March 28 Joie Kohl " All Aboard the 2010 Pledge Express"

Joie address the stewardship that allows our vibrant community to grow. UU's are generous people and support many causes. Join us to lay some new track for the coming fiscal year. Expect surprises- remember the cheerleader who joined us one year!

University UUS offers live streaming of the services! What this means is that if you're unable to attend the service while its going on, you can still listen to the service /as its 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.

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President's Corner....Chris Reid

What a great month! The building progress is phenomenal! If you haven't wandered back there, at least peek out the back door, it's a happening place. It is amazing to watch and wonderful to be a part of the creation and growth. So many are involved and we need everyone! There will be projects to work on, wish lists presented, ways that we all can help as the construction moves on.

Our annual Canvass...when we all pitch in to support the daily functions of this incredible congregation, will begin at the end of this month. Joie Kohl, Martha Kirby and Link Christensen have agreed to chair this year's pledge drive. We all thank John Amein for the amazing job he did for us for the past two years!! Joie will lead the service at the end of March to start things off, then they will have something special to share with us each week in April, ending with a super congregational party on Saturday, May 1st! If you remember last year's celebration, it was a blast! Great food by Eric and company, fellowship, a bounce house, snow cones (it will be much warmer then, I promise!)...fun for all ages! It is important for us to celebrate together, to enjoy the community we have intentionally created, to be proud of our accomplishments! So, save the date...May 1st...Congregational Party.

District Assembly is coming next month. I hope some of you will consider joining us, it is a great opportunity for fun and learning. We have an amazing District staff and Board, they work hard on our behalf and have much to offer us. Please let me know if you'd like to come along.

General Assembly is in Minneapolis this year...again, a tremendous opportunity. Held June 23-27, UU's from all over the world come together for the annual meeting, workshops, worships, fellowship, community action...the list goes on. If you are considering going, we do have a fund for this meeting and can offer some financial assistance. Please let us know if you want more information.

Daylight savings time goes into effect this month, Spring begins and we celebrate St. Patrick. Passover begins at the end of the month. A time of new beginnings, new growth. Enjoy!

March Alliance Program

March 2 Board Meeting
Continuing Bazaar

March 9 Pot Luck
Continuing Bazaar

March 16 Cindi Kopelman of Shepherd's Hope will be our speaker. She will be introduced by Steph Garber. Continuing Bazaar

March 23 Nancy Jeppesen, CEO/Founder of Florida Vision Quest Inc. will speak about available resources for the visually impaired. Continuing Bazaar

March 30 Nancy Renfro will speak about her disaster relief work in Army/Navy hospitals when she lived in the Northwest United States. Continuing Bazaar

Vicki Kirkland
First Vice President

This is a letter sent to our congregational leaders from our District head, Rev. Kenn Hurto. He writes a monthly letter, dealing with pertinent issues that face us locally, as well as nationally. I was especially touched by his discussion of faith development, of our 4th Principle, encouraging spiritual growth in our congregations, ways to take our own spiritual growth measure. I would like to share his article with you:

Dear Companions,

In our last issue, I raised with you the question of **growth in our Unitarian Universalist congregations**. I argued for the importance of **numbers** as a measure: that each number represents a human being eager to be part of our faith community. I remarked also that our numbers are not so good (down to 4,888 after our UUA January certification reports were filed). We ought to notice whether we are serving more or fewer people. I urge you to open the conversation in your congregation about how we can grow our faith in this time.

I promised to speak of other ways to think about growth. Here's one for you: **How would you measure whether or not you and your fellow congregants are more or less mature religiously?** Our 4th Principles says part of our purpose is to encourage "*spiritual growth in our congregations*." How would you know if your congregation is doing that?

We speak of Faith Development as a life-span work. Each stage of life has new questions, or old questions that open to a deeper understanding. We should be growing! The constellation of hopes and beliefs that serve well for a child are inadequate to the young adult, let alone a senior. My hunch, though, is that trying to come up with a congregation-wide metric of spiritual growth would be either impossible or meaningless. Yet, I do think each of us could take our own measure. Some questions to consider:

- What have I learned about myself this year that guides me toward joyful living?
- What do I understand differently about the "big" questions of life: the nature of the holy, my sense of purpose and meaning, my ability to connect with others?
- Can I articulate my core values in a positive way?
- Would my "elevator speech" [tell a stranger what you truly believe in 3 minutes] be compelling? Am I confident I could do it? Have I tried?
- Have I grown in service to others? Do I walk my talk as a Unitarian Universalist, respecting others, working for justice, and so on?
- Am I a more loving human being?

Well, the list could get lengthy. What would you add were you to do **an annual survey of your spiritual growth**? For me, the answer has something to do with my daily prayer: "*Thank you,*" and "*May I not knowingly add harm to our world.*" Put differently, I measure my spiritual evolution by being ever more grateful for life and whether or not I can do something every day to make life a little better, or at least not make things worse. It is a spiritual discipline. What's yours? How are you growing spiritually?

Blessings, always and in all ways, Rev. Kenn

"The Adult R.E. (a.k.a. UUUS Breakfast Club) meets each Sunday morning from 9-10 @ the Holiday Select Hotel Dining Room, one block east of Alafaya Trail off University Blvd. (7 minutes from church). To be placed on our mailing list to receive the Sunday Class Reading, contact our UUUS Office @ info@universityuus.org & write UUUS Breakfast Club on the subject line."

BEACON NEWS....our teens went to the ComedyCon in Miami the last weekend of February. They have worked hard to help select flooring for their new room and designed their own floor! Can't wait to see it!

OWL is starting on March 7th, from 4—6 pm. These classes are for middle school...if you haven't yet signed your child up, please contact either Eric or Rachel Christensen, who are teaching the course.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: A New Member Orientation class is scheduled this month for **Saturday, March 27th** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The class will be divided into two sections with the first part offering both a brief history of the two movements—Unitarianism and Universalism—and some information on the beliefs and principles of UUism. The second part of the class will cover the structure and opportunities available at UUUS in particular. The second part of the class will explore committees and special groups within our congregation. UUUS has many outlets for social justice work, as well as outlets for individual creative and practical interests. We hope that the class will help each person to better understand his or her beliefs and values while providing the chance to live those values in concert with other like-minded folks.

Everyone associated with UUUS—members, friends, visitors—is welcome to attend. We do ask, however, that those who are interested RSVP to the office so that we can plan properly. Interested parties should respond by phone to the church office (407) 737-4018 or by email to info@universityuus.org.



A Gift for Your Loved Ones

Starting the first Sunday in March, the Pastoral Care Team will be available to members of the congregation to fill out forms for a Living Will and Health Care Surrogate. Members of the Team will be available before and after each Sunday service in the month of March to explain the forms, answer questions, and to witness the forms as you fill them out. Each form requires two witnesses who are unrelated to you. If your time is limited make an appointment for a specific Sunday in March by contacting Sylvia Friedman at jondoc@aol.com or by phone (she is in the UUUS Directory).

District Assembly, coming April 9-11, in Miami

This is our District's annual meeting, where congregations from all over the District come together to share, learn, celebrate and take care of the annual business. We are very excited to have Gini Courter as the keynote speaker...Gini is the Moderator at General Assembly, a very powerful, thoughtful, funny and down to earth speaker.

There are many workshops offered...one might speak to your soul! There are always inspiring worship services and time for meeting people from many congregations. Share your story, hear theirs.

We are renting a van to help with travel and cost...also will be happy to share rooms! Please let any Board member know if you're interested in going. The cost is \$105 (by March 29th), that includes your meals and a concert! If you would love to go but the cost is too much, please let a Board member know, we may be able to help!

We would love to have you join us, this is a wonderful annual event.

Social Concerns, UniversityUUS Report Date: 2009-02-23 By: Gary Przyborski

On the local front, several of our members are active with helping out local organizations to help counter homelessness and poverty. A big thanks for those that give food regularly in our basket as you enter the sanctuary; we've been dropping off food weekly at the Hope Foundation. As a sidelight, Hope Foundation has found a young webmaster for the position I mentioned earlier. Now Sadie Holmes Help Services needs help fixing up computers, see Evelyn Chiland-Long for details.

As was announced on the February 21st Sunday service, SC through the tireless efforts of Marilyn Stewart and Dawn Foster submitted the Green Sanctuary application fee along with our plan. As many of you may know, the UUUS has been working this plan to cut our energy-water use as well as inform and encourage the congregation members-friends to make changes at home. Hopefully, the UUA will not require too many changes for us to attain certification.

Finally, I wanted to mention that SC had "An Evening of Science and Soul" where I talked on Anthropogenic (man-made) Global Warming (AGW) followed by a wonderful presentation by the talented Jim Scott that my co-chair, Dawn Foster, arranged. Everyone seemed to enjoy the mix of creativity and playfulness shown that was a real stress reliever. Finally, I gave a similar AGW talk on February 22nd to Roy's Adult RE class- a great bunch of curious UUs.

Take care and remember that SC meets on the last Sunday of the month...

Gary also submitted the following editorial comments:

The health care "reform" continues as of today with President Obama pushing the one the Senate passed. Republicans charged that this bill is a radical break from our existing system- a big socialist undertaking. In reality, this bill is anything but a break from the past. Doctor salaries aren't affected. Hospitals aren't affected much and neither are pharmaceuticals. One of the big winners is health insurance companies that would get subsidies along with government penalties against those who are poor, or who decide to opt out of buying private insurance. The situation is dire with both major parties making things worse by pushing for something that isn't reform, or ignoring systemic problems with the hope of grabbing back seats in 2010 Congressional elections.

Another issue is the Robert's court ruling (5-4) that kills campaign finance reform by claiming that it's infringing on the rights of corporations. Of course, campaign finance laws do put limits on corporate freedom but this has been done with corporations and other things, including active serviceman, who are not allowed to publicly criticize the president. The court doesn't seem interested in expanding other freedoms. Bill Moyers did an excellent job of showing how our judicial system is being changed as money controls who gets elected, and what laws are made, see <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/02192010/watch.html>

The University Unitarian Universalist Society presents:

WISHING CHAIR

One performance only!



Sunday, March 7 2PM
Tickets \$25 (\$15 student/senior)

Wishing Chair Releases their eighth CD, *Stand Up 8*.

"Engaging performances, haunting harmonies, poetic, political, stellar vocals." Curve Magazine

Multi-instrumentalist Miriam Davidson and songwriter Kiya Heartwood have made an art of inspiring performances and award winning songs, seducing the listener with soulful confessions, political broadside and a wicked groove. Their songs combine a passionate mix of intelligent lyrics, spellbinding storytelling and breathtaking harmony over a full roots-and-roll sound.

Winning over audiences with their engaging performances, passionate activism and superb execution, they perform all over the country at venues such as The Kennedy Center, The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, The Bluebird Café, The National Women's Music Festival, The Kerrville Folk Festival, and The Philadelphia Folk Festival.

Wishing Chair's music is constantly being acknowledged: *Stand Up 8* was featured on many Best of 2010 lists, *Folk and Roll Live in Austin* was nominated for a 2009 Best of Folk CD and Best Folk Song from JP Folks, they are the 2008 Jane Schliessman Award Winners for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music and their catalogue has earned high honors from JP Folks (Best New Folk CD, Best Roots Song, 2006), OutMusic (Double Winner 2003, Finalist 2004), Kerrville Folk Festival (Political Songwriting Finalist 2005, 2003), The South Florida Folk Festival (Double Winner 2003), to The Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (Emerging Artist Finalist 2002).

In addition to writing and performing with Wishing Chair, Kiya's larger works include song cycles for Women's Chorus, operettas for young people, soundtracks for independent films and The Gaia Psalms, an earth based mass for Unitarian Universalist congregations with narration by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Kiya is currently a Graduate student in Music Composition at Westminster Choir College in Princeton.

Miriam, a Philadelphia native, is the author of several books including Teach Yourself Accordion and, with Kiya, Songwriting for Beginners. She currently serves as Music Director of the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, is Nightlife director for SUUSI and is working on a fun-tastic song cycle for children.

Whether it's a song about politics, true love, or Calamity Jane, Wishing Chair "has a passion about the truth, about being emotionally available to tell it."

You can read more about Wishing Chair at www.wishingchair.com.

Join us! Concert will be held at the University Unitarian Universalist Society
11648 McCulloch Road Orlando, Florida 32817 (407) 737-4018
Major credit cards accepted at the door, a portion of the proceeds will go to the UUUS Building Fund!

RE For Our Young Calendar

March 7 -- Principle 5 -- "All People need a voice"

March 14 -- **ICE CASTLE SuperSunday**

March 21 -- Principle 5 -- "All People need a voice"

March 28 -- Principle 6 -- "Fair & Peaceful World"

April 4 -- **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Remember the fun of the ice castles in the past two years? Watch for flyers about this SUPER SUNDAY event and join us on Sunday, March 14th!



Many thanks to all those who made the garage sale such a success! The RE group has several ideas to continue to raise funds for their new playground and other supplies and equipment they need and/or would love to have in their new spaces. They will also be asking us to help with projects to make their spaces special...watch for more information in the coming weeks and months.

RE Selling refreshments during Wishing Chair intermission.....

Religious Exploration for Our Young is sponsoring refreshments during Wishing Chair Concert on Sunday March 7th. The proceeds from the project will go toward development of the new playground. Parents are donating baked goods and soft drinks to serve during the intermission. This duo is a terrific UU show! Support the kids efforts to build their new playground! Buy a cookie! Thank you for your support!

March 2010

DATES, HOLIDAYS, MEETINGS, EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE UUUS COMMUNITY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Ongoing Sunday events:</i> <i>Adult RE 9a</i> <i>Children's RE 9:30a</i> <i>Service 10:30a</i> <i>OWL</i> <i>Dreamwork 6-8p</i> <i>Beacon 6-8p</i></p>	1	2 <i>Alliance Meets</i> <i>First Church</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Book Group 10a</i> <i>Circle Supper</i>
7 <i>Investment Group 11:45</i> <i>OWL begins</i>	8 <i>International Women's Day</i>	9 <i>Alliance Meets</i> <i>First Church</i>	10 <i>Board Meeting 7p</i>	11	12	13 <i>Novel Book Group 10a</i>
14 <i>Super Sunday—ICE CASTLE</i> <i>Potluck</i> <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	15	16 <i>Alliance Meets</i> <i>First Church</i>	17  <i>Lunch Bunch</i> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <i>Men's Group 6p</i>	20 <i>Vernal Equinox</i>
21 <i>Council Meets 11:45a</i>	22	23 <i>Alliance Meets</i> <i>First Church</i>	24	25	26 <i>Women's Group 7p</i>	27 <i>Book Group 10a</i>
28 <i>Social Concerns 11:45a</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29	30 <i>Passover Begins</i>	31			

GROUPS, CLUBS, MEETINGS:

Alliance: The Alliance meets every Tuesday at First Church, downtown Orlando. Members from UUUS and 1st Church enjoy a variety of activities, share a lunch, hear speakers and make sandwiches for the homeless. Come and join this wonderful group! For more information, see the schedule on page 2 or call Kathy Anderson or email Marilyn Stewart: MStew33939@aol.com

Book Discussion Group Meeting: March 6th is the date for the March Book Group. TWO RELATED BOOKS WERE SELECTED FOR MARCH: The Reason Driven Life: What Am I Here on Earth For? by Robert M. Price (Author), Julia Sweeney (Foreword) and Out of God's Closet: This Priest Psychologist Chooses Friendly Atheism by Stephen Uhl (Author). There was talk of a regular 4th Saturday meeting on the 27th. This group meets at 10am. Contact Steve Hall for more information.

Circle Suppers: Usually held the first Saturday of the month, the host/hostess are free to set the theme, if they so choose. Listen for information from Julie Symonds and watch for a sign up sheet on the back table. Please join in the fun, it is always a lovely evening! If you would like to host one of these monthly suppers, please contact Julie Symonds, who is in charge of scheduling them.

Dreamwork: an eight-week dream group facilitated by Judy Minear and Mary K Swanson, continues to meet each Sunday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the UUUS sanctuary to share dreams and offer insight into each other's dreams. Dreamwork emphasizes the theories of C.G. Jung and the dream work techniques popularized by Jeremy Taylor. The facilitators have provided a list of recommended books; brief discussions of dream topics; and access to an online dream blog. This group is filled, but they will have other groups in the future. If you are interested, contact Judy at in2toning@msn.com . Suggested \$5 per class donation to the UUUS building fund.

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 bill-long5@yahoo.com

Lunch Bunch: Lunch Bunch will be honored by a visit from **William Shakespeare** (courtesy of the Hystorical Players) when they meet for potluck lunch Wed., March 17. This historic event will take place at noon at the Clubhouse of Winter Park Towers, 1824 Summerfield Rd.----off of Lakemont Rd., about one mile south of Aloma. Questions? Contact Dutton Ashcraft (dashcraft@cfl.rr.com)

A Novel Book Group: We will meet on March 13th, at 10 am, in the back room. The book we are reviewing is Bel Canto, by Ann Patchett. It's definitely in trade paperback. Bel Canto takes place somewhere in a South American country at the home of the vice-president. A gala party is taking place with a world-renowned opera star present to entertain the dignitaries. That is, until a bunch of gun-wielding guerillas take the entire party hostage. Panic! Read the book or a synopsis and join us on the 13th. Opera lovers very welcome. We would love your expertise. Beth bkeifer@cfl.rr.com

Standing on the Side of Love: This group is still evolving...looking for a welcoming format for young adults/college students. Watch for more information next month! Ideas? More info? Contact me, Elaina, at jerris-gibbs@rocketmail.com or my partner, Marcilla, at marcillapalooza@yahoo.com or join our Google Group (<http://groups.google.com/group/ssl-uuus>) for more information. Hope to see you then!

The UUUS Women's Group: The Women's Group hosted a self-defense workshop on Friday, February 26th at UUUS. Hope you were able to join them! **SAVE THE DATE!!!!...Thursday, April 22....Fair-Trade Shopping, Food, Fellowship with other UUs, and Fund Raising to benefit the New Building Fund. Ten Thousand Villages in Winter Park. Details to follow. Sponsored by UUU Women's Group.** For more information on Women's Group events, please contact either the church office, Christina Miller at Christina1979@gmail.com, or Jill Metz at Jill@metzbridges.

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Directory of University UUS

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