

The Connection

Volume 16, Issue 4



April 2008

SUNDAY SERVICES
10:30 AM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
9:30 AM

ADULT RE (OFFSITE)
9:00 AM

YRUU
6-8 PM

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www.universityuus.org

APRIL PROGRAMS

April 6 New Members and Flower Communion

We celebrate our new members at this annual service. We also use the ritual of the Flower Communion to mirror the new growth in the natural world. Please bring a flower to this special communion ceremony as we expand our community. Special music accompanies this service.

April 13th Rev. Mark Spivey "Living on Borrowed Time "

Rev. Spivey has dual masters' degrees in Clinical Social Work and Theology. He serves Hospice of Volusia-Flagler as a spiritual care counselor. He speaks to us on the importance of making the most of everyday.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

April 20th Earth Day- Paul Nutcher "Demystifying Green Building"

Paul is president of Green Apple Group, LLC and founding member of the Central Florida Chapter of the US Green Building Council. A former journalist turned sustainability expert he speaks around the country on Green issues.

April 27th Victoria Lynn Schultz "The Healing Harp"

We welcome Victoria for this special presentation of the healing aspects of the harp. She will demonstrate with her Celtic harp. She has performed worldwide and toured with the Chieftains. She is also an accomplished vocalist and composer.

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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.

District Annual Assembly The Florida District Annual Assembly will be held on April 18 -19, 2008 (please note that this is a date change) at the Gainesville Fellowship. See <http://www.floridadistrict.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/daa08-flyer-and-registration-final.pdf> for complete program and registration information. (Several members of the congregation are attending..let a Board member know if you are interested.)

Religious Education : Our ingathering ritual and sharing begins at 9:30 on Sunday mornings and then we break into two groups for class time. The youngest children are following the Treasure Hunter curriculum to learn about the UU values that we hold important. Their teacher is Michele Smith who is dedicated to working with them each week and to preparing a program that will both interest them and lead them to discover the treasures of our faith.

The older elementary students and our youth will follow a curriculum using creativity as a method to explore UU values. This class will draw on its participants to discover themselves as creators and it will lead the classmates to new ideas and new experiences as they explore those values they hold most dear. This class will be led on a monthly rotating basis by volunteers from the congregation. Our RE welcomes young of all ages. We encourage families to come early for the ingathering, during class time parents share a coffee and discuss topics of current interest. During services, Michele Smith and Chloe will work with the young and provide snacks. Join us!

UUUS Breakfast Club (aka Adult RE): Each Sunday Morning from 9-10 @ the Select Holiday Dining Room we have lively discussions on a topic chosen by one of our participants. One day drop by to see what you've been missing. For information on our group, contact Roy Scherer @ royhsch60@aol.com

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 20-23, 2008 : Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/> You don't have to be UU to join us!

**Excerpts from the UUA Florida District: Congregational E-Mail as a Blessing, not a Curse!
by the Rev. Kenn Hurto, District Executive**

Electronic communications are becoming the way of modern congregational life. When used well, this technology is a great boon to UU ministry. However, sad experience shows it can turn an innocent remark into hurtful strife, or exacerbate disagreements and engender larger conflicts, and/or generally stir anxiety and leave everyone feeling less safe in their congregation. So, for your consideration, I offer these tips for using E-mail well in your congregation:

In your congregation, think of E-mail **as a business memo**, not as a letter to a buddy. Be personal but keep it short, to the point. Be relevant: Say clearly what you want the reader to do. If you want a direct reply, say so. Be polite, reply promptly to any E-mail you receive. Be judicious in "reply to all." Typically, it is not necessary to reply to anyone but the writer. Similarly, do not forward notes on without the awareness of the sender. When replying, delete the accumulating thread-responses, keeping only the last one or the specific item upon which you are commenting. (Example: "Should we paint the nursery this Spring?" "Yes, I agree.") Keep your note free of fancy formatting, save your time. Be sure it is spell and grammar checked, don't embarrass yourself. Remember, if this is church business, it ought to reflect well on Unitarian Universalism, on you and on your fellow congregants.

Generally, you **may use E-mail** to pass on good news, make appointments or schedule meetings, share general information (minutes, agendas), express thanks or appreciations, judiciously share jokes. **Never use E-mail** that is in any way contrary to our UU principles of respect for the dignity of persons and being truthful. There is simply no excuse for vendettas, personal attacks, defamatory or abusive language, racist, sexist, or obscene remarks. Similarly, **E-mail ought not** to be a place for put-downs, mind reading, accusations of motive or slander. **Never use E-mail** to work out disagreements, to complain or to criticize. Ours is a people to people enterprise, so be in the same room when dealing with any emotional upset.

Watch for more excerpts from his thoughtful and encompassing article in the next few Connections.

Alliance Programs, April, 2008

OK, so a Pot Luck is not your style, and 'going out' is a pain, so how about joining us for a Home Made, catered lunch? Diana Silkwood will be our caterer on April 8, so you KNOW the food will be good. And for just \$5.00 a head – you can't beat that! Remember, you don't have to be a 'dues paying' member of the Alliance to join us for any or all of our activities. Just come!

April 1 Is it REALLY April Fool's Day?

10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
 11:00 Board Meeting
 12:00 Lunch and conversation

April 8 Special Luncheon

10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
 11:30 Very Special luncheon, catered by Diana Silkwood. \$5.00 per person. Join us for good food and good conversation!

April 15 Is your tax return filed yet?

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

April 22 The Learning Tree

10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
 12:00 Lunch, and speaker, Elizabeth Levensohn, director of our every day Play School will join us to talk a bit about the activities – and the needs – of the school, The Learning Tree.

April 29 Annual Meeting Day

10:30 Sort and Price for Continuing Bazaar
 12:00 Pot Luck Lunch and Annual Meeting

Here is the slate of officers nominated for next year: President Jean Cawelti, V.Pres/programs Susan Anastasio, V.Pres/bazaar Winnie Tyler, Corres Secretary Barbara Elrod, Recording Secretary Marilyn Stewart and Treasurer Shirley Jantzen.

Thank you
 Nancy Kellman & Jean Siegfried, Programs

YRUU NEWS: Our youth group has been very busy this past month! Their hard work washing cars and selling baked goods (many made by them at the lock-in the night before) earned over \$470 toward their Fall trip to The Mountain. Thank you to all who participated and for your generous support of our terrific youth.

This month finds them hosting the District Youth Caucus on the first weekend, April 4-6th, here at UUUS. The second weekend (Saturday, April 12th), they will host the monthly Circle Dinner, at UUUS, cooking for us (for a donation) and hosting a coffee house (like open mike night) for families. Come on down, bring your songs, poetry, instruments and enjoy the evening! Finally, many youth are going to attend the District Assembly, held in Gainesville this year, from April 18-20th. Wow, what a schedule!

April 2008

Events, meetings and celebrations of interest to the UUUS Community

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Sunday Ongoing:</i></p> <p>9 a Adult RE 9:30 a Kid's RE 10:30a Service 4-6 p OWL 6-8 p YRUU</p>		<p>1 Alliance Meets 10:30a FUCO</p>	2	3	4 YRUU hosts District Youth Caucus	5 District Youth Caucus
6 Investment Group 12 p	7	8 Alliance Meets 10:30 a FUCO Special Luncheon	9 Board Meeting 7pm	10	11	12 Circle Dinner 6 pm at UUUS (hosted by YRUU)
13 <i>Potluck</i> Fair Trade Products for Sale	14	15 Alliance Meets 10:30 a FUCO	16 Lunch Bunch noon	17	18 District Assembly in Gainesville	19 District Assembly
20 Council Meeting 11:45 a 	21	22 Alliance Meets 10:30 a FUCO  Earth Day	23	24	25	26 Book Group 10 am
27	28	29 Alliance Meets 10:30 a FUCO Annual Meeting	30			

GROUPS, CLUBS, MEETINGS:

Book Discussion Group Meeting: This group regularly meets on the 4th Saturday of each month. This month's meeting is Saturday, April 26th, 10 a.m. at the church. The book this month is, "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise Of Disaster Capitalism," by Naomi Klein. Please contact Steve Hall with any questions. hallsorl@earthlink.net

Spiritual Explorers Covenant Group: Judy Minear shares that the group will not meet this month. Please contact her for more information.

Lunch Bunch: The Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, so the April Lunch will be on Wednesday, April 16th. The guest speaker this month will be Bill Long, who will speak on a topic near and usually not dear to us all, our tax system! Come make a sandwich and enjoy the warm sense of community! Join them at noon at the Clubhouse at Winter Park Towers, Club 24, 1824 Summerfield Road. Questions? Contact Aileen Aist or the UUUS Office.

The UUUS Women's Group: The Women's Group will next meet on April 25th. Please e-mail Christina1979@gmail.com 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: Our next Circle Supper will be held on the **2nd** Saturday of the month, April 12th, at 6 pm, as our YRUU Group wanted to host the dinner and there is a District Youth Caucus planned at UUUS on the first weekend! They will cook dinner for us, accept donations and plan to have a coffee house...that is like open mike entertainment, everyone is welcome to share songs, readings, instruments, skits...the possibilities are endless! This is another opportunity to support their fund raising events (for their Fall trip to The Mountain), join our amazing and talented community and have a fun evening at UUUS! Families are welcome! Hope to see you then.

Spiritual Movie Night: Kim asks your patience as they continue to work through their many life challenges. Movie night will try to begin anew next month!

Great Decisions had its last meeting on March 27th. They are hosting a celebratory dinner on April 12th at 3 pm, at Club 24, 1824 Summerfield Rd., Winter Park, and are including the groups who met at UUUS, the Maitland Senior Center, The Towers and the Winter Park Library. For more information, please contact Kate Adda.

OWL for High School Students is starting this month! Kim and Eric remind us that the new series of OWL (Our Whole Lives), the comprehensive sexuality education program for 10-12th grade high school students (and those currently in 9th grade who completed the 7-9th grade OWL classes previously) begins this month. Held from 4-6 pm on Sundays, prior to YRUU, this is a fantastic opportunity to give your young person a factual, respect-based education on sexuality. This course is open to all interested youth, you need not be a member of UUUS. Parents need to have attended the information meeting held March 30th, or contact either Kim Carter-Williams or Eric Christensen for more information.

For Social Concerns:**Because it is the Right Thing to Do: Race and Culture Wars****by Gary Przyborski**

Recent attacks against Presidential candidate Sen. Obama for comments made by his preacher, Rev. Wright, points to some serious problems in our culture. For one, it shows the power of conservative talk radio (Limbaugh) and news broadcasting (Fox and others) to destroy the conversation while hoisting their ratings through the two twins- hate and fear. This incident highlights what little progress America has made on improving our race relations and how ignorant most of us are concerning our country's history of slavery and continuing racial strife. With microphones in hand, the pundits circled Obama's campaign anxious to glimpse the last moments of a failed Presidential bid when Senator Obama answered the chorus of critics in an intelligent speech delivered in Philadelphia on March 18. Instead of centering on racial and political tensions, the senator focused on the challenges America faces, including wars, a failing economy, health care crisis and potentially devastating climate change, adding that these problems are neither black or white or Latino or Asian. (Please see the "Current Events" section of our website for some web links to an interesting conversation over this issue.)

Whichever Presidential candidate you support, this incident has once again raised the bigger question of how can a few individuals define what is patriotic, or in a larger sense what is important to us as Americans? Yet, the very question of war is so charged that once blood is shed it becomes sacrilegious to question it. So, maybe it is best to question war in the context of which is more important. Would you rather your money go to war or to build schools or to educate students too poor to pay for college or to build mass transit or to convert America from fossil fuel to renewable energies that do far less damage to our environment? Dismissing voices of dissent limits freedom by restricting what we can collectively imagine. And if there is one thing we need, it's the imagination to conceive and build a better future.

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 26th at Winnie Palmer Hospital Auditorium 83 West Miller Street Orlando, Florida 32806. For more information contact 407-423-4680 x 16. Free to the public. Free Lunch. Free Parking. Anyone interested in carpooling please let me know.

Green Sanctuary: As I mentioned previously, February's power bill set a new low (since August, 2005) of 59 kWh per day, and a 27% reduction when compared to February, 2007. March's power bill set another new daily low consumption of 55 kWh, which is a 35% reduction when compared to March, 2007.

Social Concerns March environmental cleanup with Eco-Action (EA) was canceled by EA due to poor weather. We are going to reschedule for April and will announce it at the society. Our plan is to get our hands dirty by traveling in canoes to clean up a river. We thank Arlynn Mueller for arranging this.

Keep Shay, our youngest Social Concern member (often seen working the Fair Trade table) in your thoughts for her recent health problems.

Public Relations news is on the next page. Please note the request for those who had previously expressed interest in or trained for running the audio for our Sunday services. Thanks!

Green Tip:

Every year millions of trees and billions of gallons of water are used to produce junk mail. One way to save is get off of national mailing lists by sending your name, address, and signature to: Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512.

For Public Relations:

Audio: All of you that originally had interest in running the audio are welcome back. Lately, it has dawned on me that it is fundamentally wrong to put all the burden on one person week after week since they will either become burned out or when they miss a Sunday or two, their expertise will be missed too much. My solution is to streamline the process to make the job less tedious, more checklist oriented, and by reducing its scope. Volunteers will be trained ahead of time and will have someone there to help them when they first run the board. Those who are interested, please see Gary Przyborski.

Audio CDs: If you missed a service and would like to hear it, you can browse over to <http://universityuus.org/audio.htm>. There you can listen to any of the talks back several years. If you'd still like an audio CD to send as a gift for a friend or just to listen on the road, stop by the audio closet on Sunday morning and put in your order. All CDs are \$5 each.

Website: Please check out the UUUS website if you haven't lately. Under "Operations" you can find out who is doing what under each of the individual committee chairs and their subgroups. There you can send in an e-mail suggestion or consider signing up as a volunteer. Under "Resources" you will find suggestions for better health, computer and household tips, and even suggestions for books, movies, and websites. There are also suggestions on how you can lower your energy and water use at your home or business under the "Going Green" tab. As always if you have a suggestion or wish to correct a mistake, e-mail the webmaster at webmaster@universityuus.org.



AN INVITATION

Is your congregation a **Peacemaking Congregation**? Over 120 UU congregations nationwide are. They are sponsoring workshops, lectures and book clubs exploring peaceful **alternatives to violence** on the personal, societal and international levels, as part of the national Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) on Peacemaking (2006-2010). UUA President, Bill Sinkford, recently wrote a letter urging congregations to participate in this and other UUA peace activities.

We invite your Congregation to Participate!

How do you benefit?

- Receive Monthly Peacemaking Newsletter describing other congregations' peacemaking program ideas
- Use newly developed resources for peace workshops and RE curricula
- Give your congregation a voice in writing/approving the UUA Peacemaking Statement of Conscience

What can you do for us?

Provide an email point of contact (POC) for your congregation willing to:

- Periodically post a peace flyer on your bulletin board
- Forward infrequent messages from the CSAI core team to your congregational email list or newsletter
- Share your congregation's peacemaking activity ideas in our newsletter

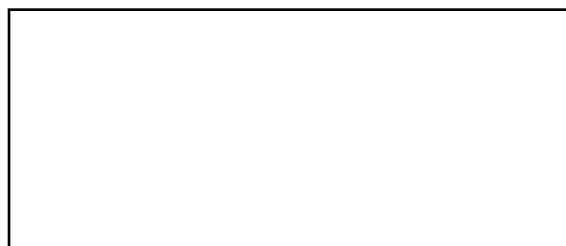
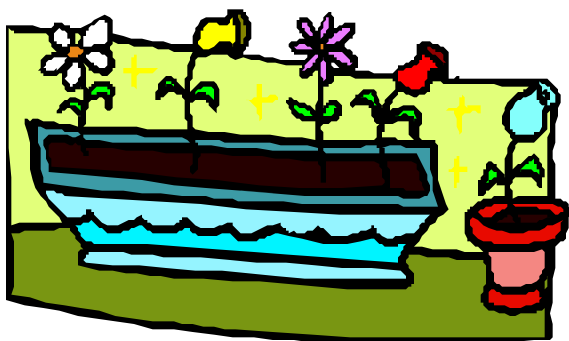
How do you become a Participating Congregation?

Identify an individual to be your point of contact and hold at least one peacemaking activity. Have them **reply to this email** (john@schaibly.com) with the word "**Participate**" in the **Subject Line**.

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