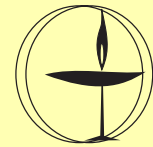


SUNSHINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION



Volume 3, Number 2
January, 2000

Florida District Annual Assembly: April 28-30, 2000 in Orlando, Florida!

This year's Annual Assembly, entitled "*A Home for Every District Unitarian Universalist*" will take place in Orlando, Florida. Watch for brochures at your congregations.

Our keynote speaker this year is the **Reverend Stefan Jonasson** from Winnepeg. Reverend Jonasson is the Coordinator of Services for Large Congregations (those with membership over 550) for the UUA. He also serves on the staff of the UUA as District Executive for Western Canada. His keynote might also be entitled "*A Home for Every View*" as he explores our long-term struggle with theological diversity. The question he asks is "How many rooms can our household of faith contain without jeopardizing its structural integrity?" Prepare to be thoughtfully provoked as Rev. Jonasson shares his humor, insight and intellect with us.

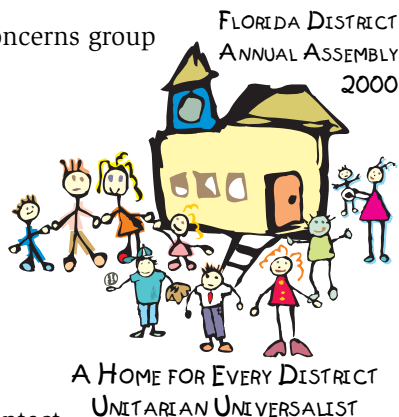
Other workshops to be offered include:

- Learning about participating in an Interfaith Social Concerns group
- What to do with the children in your congregation
- Standing up to Ignorance, Arrogance and Intolerance
- Campus Ministry
- The value of Florida Leadership School for congregation leaders

We will also feature entertainment from the First Unitarian Church of Orlando's Folk Ensemble.

Please join your fellow Unitarian Universalists **Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30**, for our Annual Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

Watch for more details through your Congregation or contact the Florida District Office at 407/894-2119 or UUAFLDIST@aol.com.



Is This Where We Want To Be Going?

The Florida District Board Of Directors, as we move forward with full implementation of the Carver Model of Policy Governance, is deeply involved with the **Ends** statement. My understanding is that Ends is a statement of "When we get there, what will we be?" not a statement of "How are we going to get there?"

The Ends statement is critical with regard to making the transition to a Board that is concerned with governance, planning and policy making and passing Operations over to the District Executive, Mary Higgins, and the Program Council.

The Board defines the longer-term destination (i.e.- what the results will be, who will be involved and what it will cost) and the prohibitions (e.g.- unlawful, imprudent or in violation of commonly accepted professional ethics). Within those parameters the District Executive and Program Council are free to use their imagination, creativity and expertise to plan and execute the trip.

The process of determining Ends is really tough work. It requires careful thinking and listening to each other. What follows (on page 2) is our very first ENDS draft. It will change, perhaps significantly, as it is refined with your help. PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU WITH YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS!

— ED PORTEUS, FDUUA PRESIDENT

Inside this Issue

- 1 Florida District Annual Assembly
- 1 District President: Is This Where We Want to be Going?
- 2 District Executive: Anxiety
- 2 District "Ends Statement" Draft
- 3 Wanted: DRE
- 3 Installations
- 3 UU Humanism Conference
- 4 Annual Program Fund Update
- 4 Trustee Report
- 4 Hera's Journey
- 5 Thandeka: Social Justice Workshop, "Race, Class, Spirituality"
- 5 Sally Roesch Wagner Event
- 5 OWL Training Info
- 6 Florida Leadership School News
- 6 Chalice Lighter Sunday
- 6 Tallahassee Going Strong
- 7 Campus News
- 7 Fundamental Questions
- 7 Religious Education Reminders
- 7 Building Programs Office Changes
- 8 Florida District Calendar

Your D.E.'s Column

From the Heart...



"It is our anxiety that connects us," said Peter Steinke at a seminar I attended in December. The word "anxiety" comes from the root "angustia" or "angura" and loosely means, "to create pain by squeezing or choking." It affects our ability to breathe. Our ability to fully nourish our minds, hearts and whole body is severely altered when the anxiety in our systems gets so high, that we cannot breathe in either a full breath or inspiration. Steinke says that churches tolerate extremely high levels of anxiety because they love deeply and want their churches to be peaceful havens from the rest of the world. He has dedicated his life to helping congregations look at the healthy practices that will allow them to thrive even in times of conflict and strife. I want to share some of his insights with you today. Lets turn first to the predictable behaviors of anxiety:

- We magnify the differences between us;
- Trap ourselves in imaginative gridlock;
- Develop an "either/or," "black/white," "us/them" thinking;
- We begin to spawn data; sending letters and e-mails;
- Resort to name calling and diagnosis;
- We label each other away; Become uni-focused.

Do you recognize any of these behaviors? What happens to us when we choose to connect to each other in an anxious system? (Remember, it does take two to make a system anxious.)

- We loose our ability to learn from each other.
- We stop hearing what the other has to say.
- We can even forget that we really like them!
- Our muscles tighten and we can lose our ability to reason well;
- Our development is arrested and we often resort to behaviors that served us well when we were young, but do not serve us well as adults;
- We can forget our principles and values. How do we respond in this system? "Reduce the anxiety" is the simplistic,

though not necessarily helpful answer. Steinke has a number of simple strategies help you accomplish that de-escalation:

- Name the anxiety rather than pretend that it does not exist or will go away.
- Become more playful with each other; (remember we like these folks!) impish irreverence is a very useful tool;
- Ask each other, "What is the worst thing that will happen if we continue like this?"
- Disconnect the anxiety, "The smartest one shuts up first";
- Don't explain, justify or defend;
- Do something physical, alone or together.
- Challenge each other, by mutual agreement, on language and behavior that separates your community into factions;

Left unchecked, anxiety dumps itself and its fruits most often on the most responsible person or on the most vulnerable. We do not "have" anxieties, but rather "are" our anxieties. If the situation is one of acute anxiety, it will pass and we can go on. Chronic anxiety, however produces irrational behavior and the ability to control our emotional lives becomes dwarfed. We become "injustice collectors." We hurt each other in chronically anxious systems. I do not suggest that guiding your churches through difficult times is as easy as it would look at first glance. What I suggest, however is that one of the most important reasons that churches exist is to help us find and model more powerful ways to be communities of faith, resistance, love, and hope. We know very readily what we want to happen in our congregations. I invite each of us to search our responses, behaviors and actions in light of that dream. It is worth the hard work, and is the holy work of communities of faith.

— REV. MARY CHULAK HIGGINS,
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

WANTED :
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The fastest growing new UU congregation, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Weston Florida, is looking for a DRE to work in partnership with our minister and RE committee. Experience is helpful but not necessary. Please contact Deborah Greene at: Dgreene188@earthlink.net or at 954-476-8878.

VERY FIRST DRAFT

ENDS STATEMENT

Mission

The Florida District of the UUA is a growing, diverse community of healthy, autonomous congregations who support one another and who affirm and promote UU purposes and principles.

Values/Philosophy

In pursuit of the Mission, we honor our commitments to

- Welcoming ALL who are in basic sympathy with our UU Principles and Purposes
- Living the Purposes and Principles of the UUA
- The Democratic Process
- Being a Leader in seeking Social Justice
- Being Anti-Racist
- Prudently and efficiently managing our financial and human resources
- Giving Voice, Visibility, Fellowship and Character to Free Religion
- Deepening and broadening our understanding of Religion, Spirituality and Community and
- Not losing sight of the importance of having some Fun in the process

Outcomes

Congregations will

- Feel connected to the District and to each other.
- Have Leaders (i.e.- Ordained, Professional and Lay) who are well trained, knowledgeable and competent
- Benefit from the District's creative, flexible, visionary utilization of financial and human resources to develop programming
- Create Infrastructure (such as: Mission/Vision Statements, Covenants, By Laws, Policy Governance Statements, Financial Plans and Long Range Plans) commensurate with their needs
- Recognize themselves as unique, precious and powerful

Strategic Plan

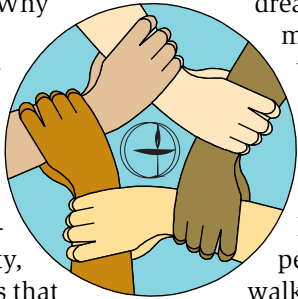
The Florida District shall operate under a Strategic Plan that specifies how the ends are to be realized and outcomes are to be attained for specific periods of time. The Strategic Plan must be approved by the Board of Directors.

INSTALLATIONS

We have six installations this year between our congregations and the ministers they have chosen to call. What is an installation? How does it differ from an ordination? Why do we have them?

An ordination is the receiving into the larger ministry a person who has been called to, prepared for and been granted the privilege of that role by a congregation. In our system of polity, congregations are the bodies that ordain ministers to this role and vocation. Ordination is not a call to be in a ministerial relationship with a particular congregation, but an official recognition of a person's entry into the stream of all ministers who have gone before as well as those who currently serve. It asks that these ministers hold the vision of love, justice, hope and community in their hearts and hands. It asks those who take up its mantle that they preach from a place of freedom to help lead us into the realization of the beloved community. It tells those who are called, that we will give them access to the most sacred, vulnerable place in our lives and we charge them to hold that trust at the heart of who they are. It is not a call to a job, but to a way of being human in the heart of those who would come together to build a community that is stronger, more loving, more just, more inspiring, more humble and empowering than we dare to hope is possible.

When a congregation calls a particular minister and asks them to serve, they are inviting the ordained person



into their community as the spiritual guardian of the most precious and cherished dreams they have for their community. The public declaration of the dreams and hopes; the commitments and responsibilities; the vision and mission and the promises they each make to assure the success of the relationship, are critical and important. It is a public declaration of the intent of the people and their minister to walk together, toward the same goals. They will not walk the same path, for their roles in the fulfillment of the goals are not the same, but both are critical to the success of the common ministry they will share. It names those differences, as well.

The installation is also a time for the larger Unitarian Universalist community to celebrate and honor the new relationship that is lifted up when you call your minister. It is a time for them to hear the commitments you are making to each other, and to offer not only good wishes, but support for the journey that lies ahead. It is a formal time when the focus can shift from the past to the hopes of the future time together. It often represents the most talent, joy, good feeling, openness, vulnerability and passion I witness.

If the congregation of your neighboring UU church is celebrating an Installation soon, I encourage you to attend. It will give you time to reflect on your own relationships, as well as offer support to those who would fulfill the common goals of this diverse faith.

— REV. MARY CHULAK HIGGINS

Unitarian Universalist Humanism Conference

March 3 - 4, 2000

at the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard in Melbourne

The Florida District UUA is sponsoring Unitarian Universalist Humanism Conference, March 3 - 4, 2000. Beginning on Friday evening with a music and literature session and social hour, there will be a series of addresses followed by small group sessions. **Dr. William R. Murry**, President of Meadville/Lombard Theology School (one of our two UU schools for preparing ministers) will discuss *"Where Have We Been and Where are We Going?"* on Saturday. Small group sessions, led by Florida UU Humanist ministers will deal with Ethics, Humanism and Spirituality, Identity Conflict, Worship Services for Humanists and Adult RE. There will be opportunities to discuss other matters of importance to Humanists who live within a UU environment.

Brochures were sent to your church to both Minister and administrator/president which contain program outline, accommodation information and registration forms. For further information, please contact the Conference Committee, UU Church of Brevard, 2185 Meadowlane Ave., West Melbourne, FL 32904, or email inquiries to higginsjhiggins@mindspring.com.

Florida District Installations: 1999-2000

December 5	The Reverend Dr. Kristen Harper Ormond Beach Sermon: The Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed
November 7	The Reverend Don Beaudreault Sarasota Sermon: The Reverend Linnea Pearson
January 9	The Reverend Amy McKenzie-Quinn Tallahassee Sermon: The Reverend Jack Donovan
January 23	The Reverend Gail Tapscott Ft. Lauderdale Sermon: The Reverend Dr. Dorothy May Emerson
March 5	The Reverend Abhi Janamanchi Clearwater Sermon: The Reverend John Buehrens
March 12	The Reverend John Rex Jacksonville (Buckman Bridge) Sermon: The Reverend Dr. Charles Howe

The **SUNSHINE** is published quarterly by the Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
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E-mail: mowers@snapjax.com

Annual Program Fund: The New Millenium



Welcome to the New Year and new millennium. I can remember when I was a young woman wondering what it would be like to cross over into the year 2000.

Here we are and what good things await us! It always gives me great pleasure to thank those congregations in the Florida District who honor their covenant as UUs to the UUA. Already two congregations, **UU in the Pines** and the **River of Grass Unitarian Universalists**, are 1999-2000 Annual Program Fund fully paid fair share. Quite an accomplishment by December 1st.

In addition you may be interested to know that out of 42 Florida District congregations, thirty have pledged to be fair share. That makes us 71% fair share pledged. I thank all of you who sent in the pledge card and also realize that more of you will be fair share even though the pledge card was not sent in. It is never too late to make your commitment to the Annual Program Fund. How about it?

In keeping with my commitment to you to keep us all in touch with what the UUA does for us and how our precious fair share funds are used the list continues: Annual Youth Conference, Board and Lay Leadership Training, Small and Mid-Size and Large Church Conferences, Capital Campaign Consultants, *InterConnections* Newsletter, REACH Packets for RE, *UU Leader* Newsletter, and the list goes on. Again, I will come up with some additional ones in the next edition of *Sunshine*.

Remember, in life the more we give, the more we receive. Let us honor our covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Association by being fair share. You will be sharing with Unitarian Universalists near and far away. May I be among many to wish you the very best in this new millennium. Dear Florida District congregations you are the best! If I can be of service please call or email.

— JOAN LUND, FLORIDA DISTRICT CHAIR,
ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND
813-931-9727/JBLUND@AOL.COM

Around the Association



It's been six months since General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City, which was one of the largest General Assemblies ever, despite the great distances many people had to travel. It was also the largest gathering of youth. The 2000 GA, focused on "Our Common Call" will be in Nashville, and I hope you are thinking about how to put together large delegations from your congregation to add to the Southern atmosphere. With an increased focus on leadership training, youth and young adult programming and building connections among congregations, the upcoming GA promises to be an extraordinary opportunity for our members. I've heard talk of buses and other joint travel arrangements — check out what is happening with other congregations in your area.

If you have not opened the packet of information from the Commission on Social Witness, I suggest you check it out. The proposals are provocative, and they need to be reflected on by a variety of your members — and deserve feedback. Deadline for feedback is only a few weeks away. If you cannot find the large, brown envelope, ask one of your internet surfers to download the information from the Association website, www.uua.org.

2001, An Election Odyssey. Yes, the Association's election cycle for President, Moderator and other at-large positions is getting underway. In addition to print information, the Association will be hosting an e-list discussion group beginning in February or March. Watch for announcements. All congregations, whether or not they will have delegates at the Cleveland General Assembly may participate in the voting. Be sure to watch for information about candidates and take advantage of opportunities to meet them, including this coming GA. As you may remember, my term ends in 2001, and I will not be running.

The Association's Board, of which I am a member, is undertaking important conversations about future directions of the Association. Please check out my reports, which go to the District Board and various congregational contacts. I always hope they get posted. For more information, you can also check out the Association web site for Board of Trustee pages.

I hope your congregation is looking for ways you can work with other Unitarian Universalist congregations on projects that help us promote our values in our communities. If you aren't sure what's happening out there, this newsletter is a good start. You can also check with your District officers, the District Office, and the web sites for the Association and other congregations (over 60% are linked to the Association site). You can also mix with congregations from all over at the MidSize Church Conference in Atlanta in March. You should have received a mailing.

I hope you find joy and meaning in this new year,

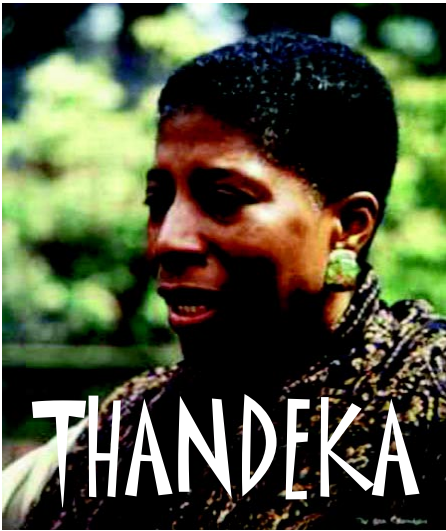
— MARGARET SANDERS, UUA TRUSTEE

Hera's Journey: A National Gathering of Women, presented in cooperation with Florida District Women & Religion April 12 - 16 • Leesburg, Florida

What more auspicious time for women of like minds to gather, than at the brink of the new millennium. Where have we been, where are we as individuals and where do we hope to go in the future? Come and experience a place of affirmation for women. Through many activities, both new and old ways of learning, we will support and create together. This event is a Unitarian Universalist event and welcomes women of other beliefs.

Room & Board: The Life Enrichment Center is located on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin just north of Leesburg in central Florida, 41 miles from Orlando International Airport. The picturesque modern facility includes air-conditioned rooms with 2 twin beds and private bath. There are camping sites, canoeing, swimming pool, an outdoor labyrinth and many more activities. There is a large dining room and a vegetarian menu is available upon pre-registration.

For registration and additional information, see your Women & Religion Area Communicator, or look for the brochures distributed with the District Packet. Check out the "Hera's Journey" website for comprehensive info: <http://www.theverb.com/herasjourney/index2.htm>.



is coming to Daytona Beach at
**Community
Unitarian Universalist
Church**

on Saturday, March 11, 2000

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Brought to you by the

Florida District Social Justice Committee

Thandeka will lead an interactive workshop on Race, Class and Spirituality titled "Lets Work Together."

Thandeka is a superb facilitator that will stimulate the participants to examine and express their feelings about racism, classism and oppression. We will explore how we can work together to achieve racial justice. Thandeka's new book is *Learning to be White: Money, Race and God in America*. Thandeka is a Professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is the author of the cover article "Middle-Class Poverty; Race and Class-Passing within White America" in the September - October 1999 issue of *World*. She was also featured in the cover story "A Conversation on Race and Class" in the 1998 July - August issue of *World*.

Registration: \$35 advance, \$45 after February 28 (includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch.) Child care available for \$25 per child. Please send the registration form (found in your church's District Packet) and your check payable to the Florida District to the Florida District Office, 1901 E. Robinson St., Suite 18, Orlando, FL 32803. Information: Charley Barcelo 904-767-4189 charaud@aol.com or Steve Jens-Rochow 954-463-2085 serochow@aol.com.

Sally Roesch Wagner to Lecture and Perform in St. Petersburg

Noted scholar **Sally Roesch Wagner**, PhD, Humanist of the Year 1992, nationally recognized historian, performance artist, and author, will give three major public presentations in St. Petersburg in March 2000. On Friday, March 3, 2000 at USF-St. Petersburg: 1:00 PM Lecture "What I Told Hillary Rodham Clinton in Seneca Falls" and 7:00 PM Performance as Matilda Joslyn Gage—the third and equally important member of the "suffrage triumvirate" along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Gage—even more radical than Stanton—was nearly written out of history after her death; nevertheless, her views address important issues of today. Dr. Wagner, leading the movement to return Gage to her rightful position, will also speak as herself and answer questions from the audience.

Thirdly, Dr. Wagner will give a history-making presentation as Matilda Joslyn Gage on "Woman, Church and State" Sunday, March 5, at 11:00 at the UU Church of St. Petersburg. These events will be widely publicized and committees are gearing up to help accommodate all those who wish to attend.

Dr. Wagner was recently seen on Ken Burns' documentary "Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony" and wrote its accompanying PBS study guide. Wagner is not only riveting when she knowledgeably speaks as herself or as "Stanton" or "Gage," but she also speaks to issues basic to the UU Women & Religion movement. Watch for further information in your January and February district packets.

Dr. Wagner's appearances in St. Petersburg are made possible through a Florida Humanities grant and USF/St. Petersburg (Campus Women's Collective, Bayboro Productions, Cultural Diversity); National Organization of Women (Pinellas County); League of Women Voters (Pinellas County); UU Church of St. Petersburg (Women's Forum, Gage Focus Group); The Humanist Association: St. Petersburg; The Council for Secular Humanism; The St. Petersburg Library System; Brigit Books; and an anonymous donor.

— GLORIA MARVIN, GRANT PROJECT INITIATOR AND CO-CHAIR
CO-CONVENER, FL UU WOMEN & RELIGION
727-384-1404, GJMSong@aol.com

The event you have been waiting for:

OWL* TRAINING

***Our Whole Lives Sexuality Training (Grades 7 - 9 Only)**



Sponsored by the Florida District - UUA Lifespan Religious Education Committee

Facilitated by Dr. Dora Finamore

March 24 - 26, 2000 • Canterbury Retreat Center, Oviedo, Florida

**Total Cost per Person (double occupancy) = \$275.00
including room and board costs**

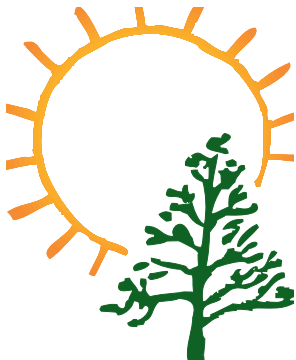
Registration forms and directions were included in the January District Packet sent to each congregation. Call 407-894-2119 for more information.

Dr. Dora Finamore recently completed work for her doctoral degree in counseling psychology. She has worked as a psychotherapist since 1984. Dora is also a registered and certified play therapist specializing in work with children and families. She also teaches play therapy and supervises clinicians. Her clinical specialties include abuse, trauma, and grief. Dora is the treasurer of the Florida Association for Play Therapy and the founding editor of its newsletter. In 1996-1997, Dora co-facilitated the OWL Pilot Program for grades 7-9 in Boca Raton, Florida. She is an active member of the UU Fellowship of Boca Raton. Dora is married to Ronald and a grateful mother to Ahsley Brooks. She is eager to gather with others in teaching the most comprehensive and respectful sexuality program published to date.



Florida Leadership School 1999: *Left to Right, back row (standing):* Carmen Emerson, Mike Miller, Erica Garwood, Robert Kenon, Barbara Whitehead, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck (faculty); *(seated, third row):* Bruce Brandt, Alex Moore, Donna Slutiak, Karen Silinsky, Liz Bleau, Maude Ware; *(second row):* Marty McAnulty, Marty Springer, Mike Miller, Linda Mowers, Darwin Honeycutt (faculty/Dean); *(front row):* Rev. Barbara White (faculty) and Rev. Mary Chulak Higgins (faculty).

Pictured above are our newest leaders in learning, in faith, and in connection. They wish to thank all of their supporting congregations, and to those who continue to donate to the Florida Leadership School scholarship Fund! *Let's get ready for the FLS Class of 2000!* Has your congregation budgeted for this INVESTMENT in strong congregational leadership?



Florida Leadership School 2000 Celebrating Lay Leadership

November 5 - 11 • Canterbury Retreat Center, Oviedo, FL

March is Banner Sunday Month!

Choose a Sunday in March to highlight the exceptional benefits of FLS! Hear what FLS graduates and others say about the value of Leadership School to YOUR CONGREGATION! The FLS Committee has a packet of

materials and worship resources that are ready for your Sunday service! It creates an opportunity for a special funds collection to support your representative(s) to Florida Leadership School! Contact the District Office for more information: 407-984-2119 or uaafldist@aol.com.

AN FLS ALUMNI REUNION/ADVANCED WORKSHOP will be held April 28th, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., in Orlando, preceeding the District Annual Assembly! *Come and reunite and refresh!* Details are in your FLS Alumni Newsletter.

Tallahassee Movers and Shakers!

On Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-6, the **UU Church of Tallahassee** had its first church retreat at *The Mountain* in Highlands, NC. The retreat was planned and coordinated by **Jean Chulak**, our Mountain Ambassador. Thirty members and children made this first trip. We returned aglow with warm feelings of camaraderie and tales of beautiful mountain hikes, adventures of the high and low challenge courses, an intergenerational touch event, star gazing, crickets chirping during evening services, and a nearby mountain labyrinth.

Now that our professional leadership decision has been made with the calling of **Rev. Amy McKenzie Quinn**, we are moving forward with plans for expansion of our physical facilities. With 70 children, our RE program is bursting at the seams of our limited classroom space (three rooms now subdivided into 6 small classrooms). On Sept. 25, 1999, **Consultant Larry Wheeler** met with the congregation for a UUA Needs Assessment. Recommendations for revising our former Long Range Plan into a Strategic Plan and for ways to conduct a capital campaign were provided. After extensive solicitation of potential architects, two have been selected and hired, with congregational vote, to develop the Master Facility Plan.

UU Church of Tallahassee, and our **Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee**, was recently featured in the local newspaper, the *Tallahassee Democrat*, as co-sponsor of *Parallel Lives*, a live program sponsored thru the Florida Humanities Council. The program featured discussion by two persons, a white woman and a black man, of their memories of growing up in Florida at the end of the Jim Crow era of segregation. To add further to our pride with the standing room only event, the man, **Bill Maxwell**, mentioned that he was a Unitarian.

On a more somber note, long time member **Richard Lee** passed away. Richard was an early District President (1977-1979). He provided Sunday services not only to Tallahassee, but to other churches in the area, including Panama City and Valdosta.

— NANCY R. BASS
CHAIRPERSON,

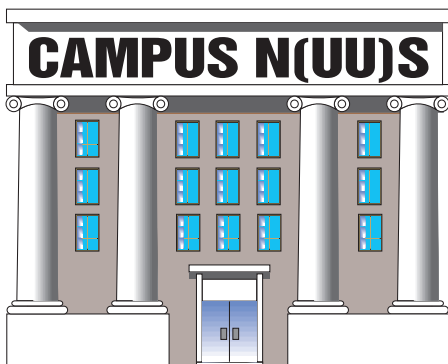
DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Chalice Lighter Sunday: February 13, 2000

Who is your Chalice Lighter Coordinator?

Help us meet our goal of 1000 in 2000! A strong **"Chalice Lighter"** program is needed in the Florida District to provide support for new and growing congregations. Make sure your congregation participates in **Chalice Lighter Sunday!** Make sure that your members know about the Chalice Lighter program, and are inspired to enroll! For more information, contact Phil Spear at PJSpearSr@webtv.net. 2806 NW 66th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606.



On November 28, several members and leaders of the Campus Ministries at FSU and UF and the Young Adult group at First Unitarian of Orlando got together to form the new **Campus Ministry/Young Adult Sub-Committee**. We're all very excited about supporting Campus Ministry and Young Adult Group efforts around the state. Through this committee, we will be able to connect young people with ministries geared towards their needs as they move around the state for colleges and jobs. In this way, we can continue to support the graduates of our RE programs. This committee will also be a clearinghouse of information for churches that are interested in starting Young Adult groups or Campus Ministries. Look for a couple of workshops at the District Assembly that will provide such info.

We would like to have at least one liaison and/or committee member from each church so that we can keep in touch with the graduating youth and young adults of the area. If you are interested in being involved with our efforts, call or email one of the Co-chairs: Kim Ross Frichter (850-562-7378 kross@rice.hep.fsu.edu) or Tom Cook (407-898-7586, tcCook@harcourt.com or blackcat@magicnet.net).

You can also join our discussion list by going to the following web page: <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/FDCMYA> Or you can join by sending email to the following address: FDCMYA-subscribe@onelist.com.

Also, if you are a young adult, and would like more information about a Young Adult Conference being held in Orlando Mar 10-12, please check the FUCOYA website for details at www.fuconet.org/ya/ or contact Tom Cook directly at the above phone or email.

— KIM ROSS FRICHTER

Fundamental Questions

On October 22 and 23, 1999, the Training and Church Management Committee of the Florida District-UUA had the pleasure and honor of hosting the **Reverend Clark Olsen** for the District's **Fall Leadership Conference** held at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. During the conference, entitled "A Home for Every Unitarian Universalist," Rev. Olsen addressed the necessity of a long-range planning process for UU congregations, and challenged conference participants to identify the "fundamental questions" for UU congregations to consider as part of that process. During Friday evening's session the fifty conference participants gathered into four smaller working groups for this thoughtful exercise. At the request of many conference participants and Florida District President, Ed Porteus, we are publishing below the "fundamental questions" as identified by those four working groups:



Clark Olsen

How can I be more tolerant of others? (views, life styles, values, beliefs)
 Where do I want to go, spiritually?
 What do I want from my church?
 How can I better incorporate the Principles & Purposes in my life?
 How can we make our diversity a strength, while not losing sight of our common elements?
 Am I congruent in my belief, thought and action? (congruency/values clarification = belief-thought-act = "values to shape our actions")
 Am I open to diversity in my congruency (as noted above)?
 How do we heal and find time for reflection? (personal growth)
 How do we tell our UU story? How do we spread the UU word?
 What difference does my faith make? What commitment do I make to it?
 Am I the UU I want to be?
 How much can I hope for? How much hope can I offer?
 Where do you spend your money?

Which of the principles speak loudest to me? Do I experience conflict with any of them?
 Do you have UU good news? What is your good news? Why are you not sharing the good news?
 How does your religious life influence your work/home/school life?
 Are all theological beliefs really welcome here? How pluralistic are we comfortable being?
 How do my gifts further the ministry/mission of the congregation?
 Do I know what our ministry/mission is?
 What is our witness/impact on the larger community?
 What sustains us in times of grief/stress/conflict?
 Do you let your non-UU friends know you are a UU?
 How do you live your UU values?
 Do you own a truck? (We're sure there's a story behind this question....but we don't know what it is!)"
 What makes you come here every week?
 To what do we owe our allegiance?
 How does being a UU help you get through life's tough times?
 What do we do together that improves the World?
 How does our religion affect our relationship with others?

RE Professionals & Volunteers... Reminders:

1. Please send your **RE surveys** to Karen Gonzalez ASAP so that the data can be analyzed and the committee can respond to your needs. Contact her at KarenDRE@aol.com if you cannot find yours.
2. Contact Stefanie Hamblen in Gainesville at shamblen@uuf.org or 352-377-1669 if you have any youth attending this month's conference and have not yet sent in your forms. She needs numbers to continue planning.

— KAREN GONZALEZ, CHAIR
FLORIDA LIFESPAN RE COMMITTEE

Name Change!

This is to notify you that the **Building Programs Office** in CDE (Wayne Clark and Pam Bachman) has a new name: **The Office for Congregational Fundraising Services**. For a long time we have known that the name did not accurately reflect the mission or the programs of this office which supports the Capital Campaign consultants (who also provide annual canvas consultations), and manages our building loan and building loan guarantee program. The office is adding both strategic planning services (in the context of capital campaign planning) and assistance with congregational endowment formation. The new name is a much better representation of what the office does and should help our congregations more easily locate the help they need.

FLORIDA DISTRICT CALENDAR • 2000

The information in this calendar is thought to be correct as of 1/5/2000. Please contact the District Office at (407) 894-2119 or uuaflldist@aol.com to confirm, add or change the information contained in this calendar.

January

- 7 - 9 FDYRUU Coming of Age #3 Con Daytona
- 8 Extension Committee Orlando
- 8 Women & Religion Area Comm. Meeting Orlando
- 9 Rev. Amy McKenzie-Quinn Installation Tallahassee
- 14 - 16 FDYRUU Spirituality Con TBD
- 16 Harriet Tubman - Southeast Cluster TBD
- 23 Rev. Gail Tapscott Installation Ft. Lauderdale
- 24 FUUMA Meeting Boca Raton
- 21 - 22 Planning for Growth Workshop East Orlando
- 29 Nominating Committee St. Petersburg
- 28 - 30 FDYRUU All Age Con Gainesville

February

- 4 RE Committee Meeting Orlando
- 5 Program Council Meeting Orlando
- 11 - 13 FDYRUU All Age Con Ft. Myers
- 12 West Central Cluster & District
Music Workshop and Gala Clearwater
- 12 Music Workshop & Concert Clearwater
- 13 Chalice Lighter Sunday District-wide
- 25 - 27 W&R Midwinter Gathering UU in the Pines

March

- 3 - 4 Florida UU Humanists Conference Melbourne
- 3 Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner Presentation St. Petersburg
- 5 "Women, Church & State" Performance St. Petersburg
- 5 Rev. Abhi Janamanchi Installation Clearwater
- 10 - 13 FDYRUU Coming of Age Trip Boston
- 11 Thandeka Social Justice Workshop Daytona Beach
- 12 Rev. John Rex Installation . Jacksonville/Buckman Bridge
- 15 Annual Committee Reports Due
- 17 - 18 Florida District Board Meeting St. Petersburg
- 20 April *Sunshine* Submission Deadline
- 24 - 26 Our Whole Lives (OWL) Training Oviedo

March (continued)

- 24 - 26 FDYRUU Transition Con #2 TBD
- 25 Super Saturday/SE Cluster TBD

April

- 1 Northeast Cluster Ormond Beach
- 8 Super Saturday - East Central Cluster Melbourne
- 8 Southwest Cluster Annual Meeting Sarasota
- 12 - 16 Continental UU Women's Gathering Leesburg
- 28 Leadership School Reunion Orlando
- 28 - 30 District Annual Assembly Orlando
- 28 - 30 FDYRUU Youth Caucus/Coming of Age #5 Con ... Orlando

May

- 5 - 7 FDYRUU Social Action TBD
- 6 Extension Committee Meeting Orlando
- 6 West Central Cluster Annual Meeting Tarpon Springs
- 13 New President's Forum East Orlando
- 15 June *Sunshine* Submission Deadline
- 19 - 20 Women & Religion Area Comm. Meeting New Smyrna
- 20 Southeast Cluster Springfest Boca Raton

June

- 2 - 3 Program Council Orlando
- 9 - 10 Florida District Board Retreat E. Orlando
- 17 South East Cluster: *Fulfilling the Promise* . N. Palm Beach
- 22 - 27 General Assembly Nashville, TN

Key to Abbreviations:

- Con Conference (generally refers to Youth Conferences)
- FDYRUU ... Florida District Young Religious Unitarian Universalists
- FUUMA Florida Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association
- RE Religious Education
- UU Unitarian Universalist
- W&R Women and Religion

Florida District Board of Directors

Officers

President Ed Porteus, Ft. Myers

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Bob Kenon, Tallahassee

Treasurer Wini Stowe, St. Petersburg (UU Church)

At Large

2000 Maureen Armour, Naples

2000 Jim Luce, Melbourne

2000 Kathy Converse, Jacksonville

2001 Peter Goldhammer, St. Petersburg

2001 Frank Dunn, Sarasota

District Executive - Ex-Officio

2001 Rev. Mary C. Higgins, Orlando



Newsletter of the
FLORIDA DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
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