



**Northeast Breeze
Monthly Newsletter
of the Northeast Cluster
Florida District, UUA**

December 2011: Vol.4, No.7

Enthusiastic members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, working with a Solar Mosaic program called people-around-world-begin-occupying-rooftops, - took initial steps toward possible future installation of solar panels on the UUCJ rooftop. On November 20, Solar Day Sunday, member Jay Huebner led a meeting of concerned members and representatives of the solar panel industry to discuss the possibilities and ramifications of such a move. Huebner sees this as a spiritual concern.

"Our church," he commented, "is committed to integrating an Earth-oriented spirituality into our worship. We hope that by forming a solar cooperative, we can use this experience as a teaching tool and give congregation members the courage to go solar on their own houses, farms and businesses."

As far as *The Breeze* has been able to discover, only two FLDUUA congregations have turned to solar heating – the Tallahassee Church in April 2007 and the Ormond Beach Society (Greater Daytona Area) in March 2008. The Anne Arbor [Michigan] UUs have a windmill in their parking lot.

With a bridge loan from the City of Tallahassee and generous voluntary contributions of \$33,000 from 50 UUCT members, solar panels were installed on the Tallahassee church's education building to provide an alternative source of electricity. This was expected to cut the church's electricity costs by approximately 30 percent, and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the city's electric generating plants, which at that time produced 97 percent of its electricity from fossil fuels. The UU church was the first in Tallahassee and Florida to go solar, as part of its Green Sanctuary program. Since then, encouraged by the UUCT leadership, two Presbyterian churches in Tallahassee have gone solar, using UUCT's contractors.

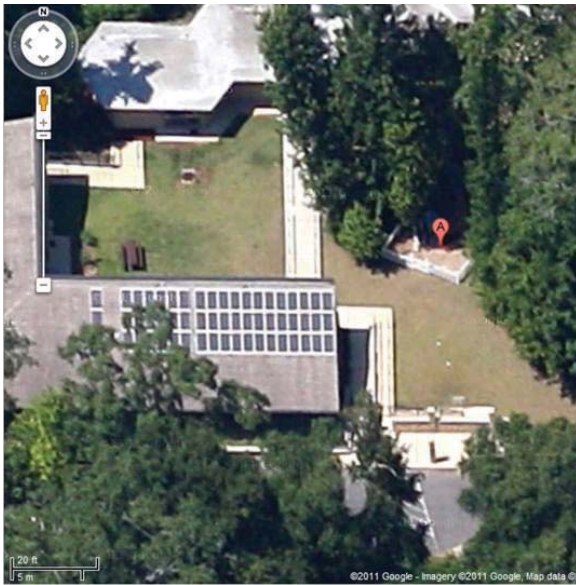
Steve Urse, UUCT solar project coordinator, recently reported: "After a little more than four-and-one-half years (54 months and 12 days), UUCT solar panels have generated 45,256 kWh. During that time the church has saved about \$5430 in electric



(Left to right) Solar Day team members Cyd Reider, Bob Montanaro, Brian Paradise, David Shacter, UUCJ minister Ron Hersom and Jay Huebner



As UUCJ members and friends arrived on November 20, the sign on the rooftop told them they had come to the right place!



The photo at left depicts the solar panels at UUCT in Tallahassee today as downloaded from Google maps. The photo above was taken at the dedication of the Ormond Beach panels in March 2008.

costs and 23.55 metric tons of carbon dioxide. We paid the city bridge loan back within two months with almost \$40,000 in rebate money from the state. The almost 10 kW solar system cost around \$72,400.”

Expected to pay for itself in less than 10 years

The Ormond Beach board approved the installation of a photovoltaic system and the contractors contributed a solar hot water heater and two solar attic fans. This package was expected to reduce electric bills by about half and pay for itself in less than 10 years. After that, it was expected to save more and more money each year “as the price of electricity goes up and up!” The Green Sanctuary Team thanked the board for their foresight “as our Society embraces becoming a beacon for other organizations to step up and invest in the future of our planet.”

Pastor Bud Murphy of UUSDBA said recently that “the process of acquiring the solar panels was edifying to me. A member of the board raised a long list of questions that he thought needed answers before the project went forward. At first the Green Team who had taken this initiative was inclined to discouragement, but on examination the questions seemed relevant and their answers valuable to the success of the project

“The billing strategies of Florida Power and Light,” he continued, “have prevented us from getting fair compensation for the energy we provide to the grid when we are not at peak use and the rate we are charged for electricity is based on our peak load, which does not take into account the low demand we place on the grid most of the time. Those using photovoltaic on commercial accounts ought to make a united objection to FPL’s approach to billing as a matter of economic and ecological justice. *Even with the billing strategy, we seem to be cutting our bills by about 40% and significantly reducing our carbon footprint.*”

Solar Mosaic is a marketplace that anyone can use to create solar projects and finance them from their communities, locally and online. Started to encourage more solar for communities, its mission is to flip business-as-usual energy development on its head and democratize it through clean energy. With Solar Mosaics, many people come together to build community solar projects.

- Contributors Jay Huebner, Pastor Bud Murphy, Steve Urse; photos from Jeanne Huebner & the Internet

“Because we are now running out of gas and oil, we must prepare quickly for a third change, to strict conservation and to the use of coal and permanent renewable energy sources, like solar power.”

- Jimmy Carter, televised speech, April 18, 1977

“Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth.”

- Buddha
(ca.563-483 BCE)

Environmental Film Series – The Green Team at the St. Augustine UU Fellowship sponsored an environmental film festival, showing a movie a week for seven weeks. Issues addressed were: mountaintop coal removal (“The Last Mountain”), fracking [aka, hydraulic fracturing or industrial gas drilling] for natural gas (“Gasland”), the bottled water industry and its problems (“Tapped”), the link between pesticides, bees, and pollination of our crops (“Vanishing of the Bees”) with commentary by our own Joan Kramer, RE director and former bee keeper. We saw how to transition into a low carbon future by a community that is doing it (“The Turning Point: Return to Community”); how to eat to safeguard our health and the environment (“Forks Over Knives”); and a bonus film, “The Dolphin Defender” with the filmmaker Hardy Jones, who has been on a 30-plus-year crusade to save the dolphins from – US!



From internet website of “The Turning Point: Return to Community”

Following the screening of the movies, we held discussion sessions to ask and answer questions and begin to assimilate some of the information presented. Because we had to pay for viewing rights to several of the movies, we passed the basket for a suggested \$5 contribution, and collected enough to cover our costs and return a little to the Fellowship coffers. Attendance varied from 20+ to 40 people and included many who were new to our Fellowship. We are very happy with the results of this environmental film festival and will most likely do it again.

- Nana Royer and Cynthia McCauliffe

“To insist on one’s place in the scheme of things and to live up to that place, to empower others in their reaching for some place in the scheme of things, to do these things is to make fairy tales come true.”
 - UU minister and author Robert Fulghum, “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten”

Breeze Correspondents - Your UU compatriots below welcome suggestions for stories and comments to share with other cluster congregations and members. This is one way we learn from each other, exchange new replicable ideas, and enjoy knowing others are exemplifying our UU values.

- Cocoa** - Sam Williamson - 321-480-1199 - metcalfbottom@msn.com
- Eustis** - Ted Fessler - 352-483-7405 - canopus1@comcast.net
- Gainesville** - Ginny Bird - 352-468-1297 - birdg@acceleration.net
- Jax Arlington** - Holly Charland - 904-403-9912 - winterhollyberry@yahoo.com
- Buckman Bridge (Jacksonville)** - vacant
- New Smyrna Beach** - Barbara Jean Smith - 386-3836 - babajji@msn.com
- Marion County (Summerfield)** - Dick Chady - 352-391-7069 - rchady@comcast.net
- Mosaic (Orange City)** - Cary Ragsdale - 386-871-1398 - cary.ragsdale@gmail.com
- Orlando First** - John Hartgering - 352-242-2437 - jehart9@yahoo.com
- Orlando University** - Chris Reid - 407-491-4199 - lcreid99@aol.com
- Ormond Beach (Greater Daytona)** - Rev. Bud Murphy (acting) - 386-846-1840 - revbudmurphy@earthlink.net
- All Souls (Palatka)** - Rita Foust - 386-546-2539 - rmfoust804@gmail.com
- Rockledge** - Nancy Shacklette - 321-259-3979 - shacks1@earthlink.net
- St. Augustine** - Lola Sorensen - 904-794-0961 - lolax43@gmail.com
- Valdosta** - Betty Derrick - 229-794-2301 - bderrick@valdosta.edu
- Vero Beach** - Joyce Levi - 772-562-9476 - j-levi@earthlink.net
- West Melbourne** - Yolanda Caraballo - 321-220-3472 - uucb2185@gmail.com
- West Volusia (DeLand)** - Carolyn Benton - 386-775-0755 - kencsr00@aol.com

Women’s Rights Luncheon at UUFVB attracts wide spectrum of Indian River County community - At a recent “Lunch and Learn” luncheon sponsored by the newly formed Indian River Women’s Health Coalition and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, guest speaker Judith Selzer responded to questions about legislative issues as well as current women’s rights activities.

More than 100 representatives were present from such diverse groups as the National Organization of Women, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Republican Women for Choice, Democratic Women’s Club, Planned Parenthood, various area congregations and the community at large. This was a friend-raiser and information session, not a fundraiser for any organization.



Suzy Bromwell, UUFVB luncheon organizer; speaker Judith Selzer of Planned Parenthood



Lynne Ellison, Planned Parenthood volunteer, participates in a full and fascinating Q&A session.

Selzer is Vice President of Public Policy and Communications for Planned Parenthood of South Florida and the Treasure Coast. Active with several community organizations, she is currently board chair for the Women’s Foundation of Palm Beach County and a member of the Florida Atlantic University Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Advisory Council.

Using PowerPoint, Selzer described the family planning movement, from the Comstock and Margaret Sanger years through present-day activities of anti-choice activists and proposed legislation. *[Unitarian minister John Haynes Holmes – Church of the Messiah and later Community Church of New York – was instrumental in helping Sanger found Planned Parenthood and was also a founding member of both NAACP and ACLU. Community Church supported education, sponsored political and social forums and provided health clinics. It also courageously supported Margaret Sanger’s controversial birth control initiatives.]*

Two points emphasized by Selzer were: (1) despite the constant mention of taxpayer dollars funding abortions – absolutely no federal money is used to fund abortions; and (2) regardless of age, income or gender, nearly 9 out of 10 Florida voters, including many who describe themselves as evangelical Christians, believe public schools should offer some form of sex education.

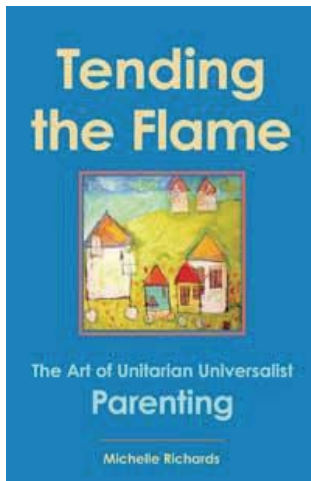
Luncheon attendees left with a greater understanding of the political climate, and feeling empowered to take action. They were assured that phone calls, letters and email postings are useful in communicating specific ideas to legislators as well as demonstrating public consensus on issues.

Luncheon organizer was UUFVB member Suzy Bromwell.

- Photos by Renee Parsons

Going to Phoenix? - Your Florida District Board has approved "Crossing Borders" as the theme for our next District Assembly, which will take place in Jacksonville, March 23-25. The DA will offer participants educational and experiential learning to prepare those going to Phoenix and to empower our congregations' ministries here in Florida.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”
- John F. Kennedy



UUUS Parenting Class “Conversations Around Our UU Principles and How They Can Support Our Individual Values as We Raise Our Kids” -

The goal for this four-week class at the University UU Society was to discuss ways for UU parents to intentionally talk about the seven principles in raising our children. To be intentional about using these principles, Initially we used the highly acclaimed book, *Tending the Flame* by Michelle Richards.

We also surveyed our participants on

- 1) which of the seven principles they'd like to be doing a better job of in teaching their children, and
- 2) which of the principles they were most passionate about their children learning and practicing.

This gave us a good sense of where to start. After introducing each principle, usually with a related reading, we quickly found parents eager to share their personal experiences, discuss family challenges and offer their respective thoughts. Each week brought new participants and fresh discussions.

While we are still collecting feedback, it is our intent to have an ongoing, supportive parents discussion group with a different topic for conversation each week. Already we have compiled several topics to get us started in the new year.

For additional information, please contact Jill Metz at j.jemstone@yahoo.com or Sara Sullivan at sesullivan28@yahoo.com.

- Jill Metz



The Fourth Annual UUUS Women's Retreat - will take place from Friday, January 27, at 5:30 p.m., through late evening on Saturday, January 28. The retreat theme is “Nourish Your Soul.”

The \$35 cost for the event includes food, drinks, and activities. Checks should be made payable to Jill Metz or Julie Symonds.

For information, please contact: Jill Metz at 407-760-2606 or j.jemstone@yahoo.com or Gina Busby at (407) 927-1173 or gthunder@cfl.rr.com.

- Contributors Jill Metz and Chris Reid

Jax Arlington UU is considering installing reflective film on windows - on the west side of the upstairs part of the church. This includes the window behind the pulpit overlooking the natural beauty of the pond and nature trail below.

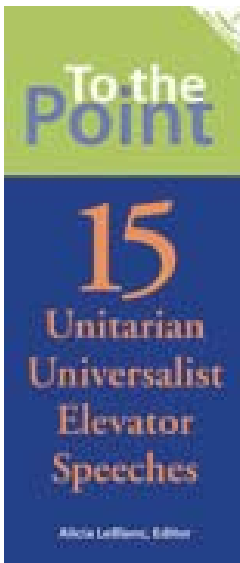
Cost of the project is estimated at \$1600. Savings in reduced heat and light are expected to exceed that. The reduction in heat passing through the windows now is four tons, according to the study committee report. In addition, there is a lot of bothersome glare during services, especially for those sitting in the front rows. Glare would be reduced by 75 percent.

There are also advantages when it comes to video results for branches, nursery, social rooms and shut-ins viewing services at home.



UUCJ sanctuary

The board is seeking committee and congregational input before making a final decision some time in the future. This project is independent of the possible solar panel installation noted on page 1.



To the Point: 15 Unitarian Universalist Elevator Speeches - is a new UUA pamphlet available at the UUA Bookstore, edited by Alicia LeBlanc. *To the Point* is an information pamphlet published last month, and is available at 25 for \$7. If you have a pamphlet rack, these would make a good addition. You can order at 800-215-9076, and also read them online at www.uuabookstore.org.

On many occasions in many of our cluster congregations, the question is posed: "If you're on an elevator with someone who asks 'What Is Unitarian Universalism?' can you respond briefly and coherently before the elevator reaches its next stop? These also work quickly in a cashier line or sidewalk chat. See three samples below.

"Our faith is not interested in saving your soul – we're here to help you unfold the awesome soul you already have."
- Andrea Lerner

"Unitarian Universalists have different religious beliefs but share a common faith. We know that life is holy, that each person is worthy, and that, when we join together to plant the seeds of love, the world blossoms."
- Erik Resly

"At its best, Unitarian Universalism is a religion of people who covenant to treat one another well, care for the earth, and protect the beautiful tapestry of cultures and communities that make up the people of the world. Love is the core value from which we build."

- Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

Staying in touch...connecting... - The question came from one of our regular *Breeze* correspondents: "Can you help me clarify the distribution of your publications? If I put something into the Florida District and/or NE *Breeze*, can it only be viewed online? Are packets sent out (either electronically or hard copy) to individual congregations via church leaders/contacts?"

Jessica Curren, District Administrator, Florida District, uuafl@gmail.com, advised that the FLD packet goes out monthly (except July) via email to all congregation offices, ministers, presidents, directors, music directors, denominational connection chairs, newsletter editors and district leaders. Others are added to this list by request. Some, not all, congregations print this out and post it for their members to review. The deadline to submit items for the packet is the 20th monthly.

Connections, the District e-news, is published once or twice a month and goes to all noted above and any other congregation leaders on the list. Anyone interested in receiving the e-news can join this list or opt out at any time. The deadline to submit items for the e-news is the 25th monthly.

Both of these are archived on the District website: <http://www.floridadistrict.org/?cat=16>).

The *Northeast Breeze* co-editors responded: The *Breeze* currently has 220 mostly Florida Northeast Cluster UUs on our email list. The newsletter goes out monthly to the list. People are added and removed as requested. Stories and photos are accepted at any time; preparation for the newsletter begins around the 15th or 20th of the month, but dated items are usually accepted until a couple of days before month's end. The product is then proofed by three different people, sent to Jack Kulas of Gainesville UUF for shrinking and putting online at <http://is.gd/u5SVnJ>. On the last day of the closing month or the first of the new one, the button is pushed to send it on its way to you.

Thank you all for your participation and comments.

- Joyce Levi and Larry Rayner

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." - Buckminster Fuller, *UU systems theorist, author, designer, inventor, futurist and second president of Mensa International, the high IQ society*
[A complex carbon molecule resembling his geodesic dome is officially known as a fullerene and unofficially as a buckyball in honor of this great inventor.]

News from Marion County - The UU Fellowship of Marion County recently donated \$1,149 to The Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, a domestic abuse treatment program. For any month with a fifth Sunday in it, the UUFMC donates a special collection to a local charity.

A folk concert jointly sponsored with the United Church of Christ in The Villages netted UUFMC \$467. The two organizations are co-sponsoring four concerts this winter, with the proceeds split equally.

At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, at UUFMC, David Cobb, former Green Party presidential candidate in Florida on his "Speaking and Democracy Training Tour," will explain the movement for a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling that allows unlimited corporate contributions in political campaigns. The Move to Amend campaign would:



David Cobb

- 1 - Firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.
- 2 - Guarantee the right to vote and participate, and to have our votes and participation count.
- 3 - Protect local communities, their economies, and democracies, against illegitimate presumption actions by global, national and state governments.

MovetoAmend.org is a coalition supported by hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals dedicated to ending the illegitimate legal doctrines that prevent the American people from governing ourselves.

Cobb will be in West Melbourne on December 4. His other UU stops on his Florida tour have been Miami, West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Gainesville and Sarasota. - Dick Chady



Healing with Chakras - On Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard will offer a seminar on chakras, facilitated by its minister, Rev. Gregory Wilson. Sonya Ki, co-leader of the Compassionate Communication Class, will be leading a meditation.

The word *chakra* derives from the Sanskrit word for "wheel" or "turning." They are said to be "force centers" or whorls of energy and are considered the focal points for the reception and transmission of energies.

A UUCB flyer said about the seminar: "You will use your imagination to see and manipulate colors. You do not need to know about chakras. We will experience the sense of balance. The primary meditation will use visualization. Some experience with visualization and meditation is helpful but not necessary. Paper, colored pencils, crayons, colored chalk or other media will enhance your experience. Please bring to the session the medium you wish to work in."

- Information from Yolanda Carabello

The Alliance in Orange County aims for 100 items of clothing for the homeless - Comprised of women from both Orlando churches – First Church and University UUS, the group meets every Tuesday at First Church in downtown Orlando. Members enjoy a variety of activities, share lunch, hear speakers and make sandwiches for the homeless. The annual Christmas tea is held at UUUS, but First Church has the storage facilities (and the history) for the ongoing bazaar and does the outreach for the homeless, etc. from their church, where they host the weekly meetings. In a new initiative, the Alliance will be collecting coats, jackets and sweaters to donate to the Coalition for the Homeless. The goal is to collect 100 items in celebration of the 100th anniversary of First U. There will be a collection box at each congregation, and members are searching their closets and their friends' closets for donations.



Rev. Kenneth Gordon Hurto

From the November District Connections, Message from Florida's District Executive - Whew! Are you getting dizzy by the whirlwind of events: The European Zone in crisis, Occupy Wall Street is now Occupy Everywhere, Alabama surpasses Arizona for mindless immigration legislation, and Florida is still near the top when it comes to foreclosures. What's it all mean? Is there any good news?

As Unitarian poet, Wordsworth, summed it up: "The world is too much with us, late and soon." I am bewildered. How do I live my Unitarian Universalist values in this maelstrom of worry? Well, there is good news: I have this community of faith to sustain me, to challenge me, to guide me. Together, truly, we are stronger!...

The other day, I came across this faith-filled prayer by the Rev. Parisa Parsa (Milton, MA), offered at the Unitarian Universalist Vespers service at Occupy Boston on October 16. It lifted my heart. Perhaps it will touch yours. In part, she said:

"It is a thing of beauty to see people coming together across political persuasions and ages and ethnicity and just about everything else in order to say: we are all in the same boat and we are not about to let it sink! This is our world. Let's make it whole together. 'We are the 99%' is the slogan of this movement. But our faith calls us to know deep in our bones what it means to be 100%.

"100% born from a thread of goodness and hope that is woven through 100% of beings on this planet.

"100% able to see and cultivate that goodness in ourselves and each other.

"100% the ones in whose hands this world rests.

"100% infused with the power of divine love, forgiveness, grace.

"100% of us are destined for the arms of a love that knows no limit.

"100% of us were born and offered the breath of life from a source we cannot fully name."

The centrifugal forces at work in our society are born of greed and ignorance. They are sustained by fear and indifferent hearts. There is good news: Our faith calls us to be the ones who can love universally and to work so that all, all!, are treated justly and given an equal opportunity to thrive. Human forces created many of the ills that worry our nights. And human hands can work to change that in the hope of our days. This is ministry.

Reverend Parsa concludes: "100% of us hold the power to turn the ship around, to mend its leaks, and repair its sails to set it right again. We need all our stories, all our hearts, all our spirits, all our anger and frustration, all our hope and laughter to make it new. Let us be together. 100%."

May we be worthy of our faith.

- Rev. Kenn

"When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy.' They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life." - John Lennon

"Mankind must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures; peace is our gift to each other." - Elie Wiesel

In the current issue of *UU World*, several Northeast Cluster congregations are named UUSC 2011 Honor Congregations - For seven years in a row, UUF Vero Beach has been named to the Spirit of Justice Society with 100% of its membership UUSC members. Cocoa, DeLand, Gainesville, Orlando 1U, Rockledge and West Melbourne are honored as Creating Justice Banner Societies with 25-49% of their members also UUSC members. Congratulations and thanks to all.

All Souls UU in Palatka celebrates Samhain - Members and friends of All Souls UU in Palatka gathered on Sunday, October 30, to participate in a “traditional” Samhain ritual for the dead. Led by Service Assistant Rita Foust, and wicca Nancy Smith, the congregation brought photos of departed loved ones to put on the altar decorated with fall harvest and candles.



Rita Foust leads the Samhain service in Palatka.

We learned how many of our modern Halloween traditions actually came to America with immigrants from Celtic countries.

Many of the traditions and symbols have remained basically the same as they have been for hundreds of years (bonfires, ghosts, the prevalence of apples), while others have mutated to what we have today (trick or treat, jack-o-lanterns, witches). As the sound of chant filled the room, all held hands and invited the dearly departed to be in our presence.

- Rita Foust, photos by Virginia Belson



Christmas for Pets at UUFG - Children at the UU Fellowship of Gainesville are helping to provide Christmas for pets of our homeless friends. Participating as part of the Home Van Pet Care Project, run by Elizabeth Howard (of the Home Van), RE students are collecting cat and dog food and special treats so that animal companions of clients served by the Home Van can have Christmas, too.



Linnea Alborn
(Permission to use photo granted by parent)

Many of our children have pets so they can readily identify with the desire to remember a loyal pet during the holiday season. Children in RE grades 1-3 decorated the collection box, and 4-5-graders are collecting pet food. They hope to equal or break their record from last year of 110 pounds of pet food.

Also collected are other presents for animals such as collars or leashes. As part of a Helping Hands service project in early December, children will write holiday cards or cards of good wishes to the homeless and/or their animals and attach them to pet food and any animal toys donated.

- Ginny Bird; contributor Heather McAuslane
Photo by Ron Dalton

For information on the Home Van project, visit the website:

<http://homevanpetcareproject.blogspot.com>.

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.”

- Anatole France

“A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.”

- Garrison Keillor



Gathered from UU congregations all across Florida, this happy group of singers was featured at the UU Fellowship of Gainesville in February's 2011 Fifth Annual Florida District Choral Festival.

"To seek, to sustain, to share, AND TO SING!" - The Sixth Annual Florida District UU Choral Festival is nigh upon us. The First Unitarian Church of Orlando will host the Festival on Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26, 2012. All Florida District UU choir and/or music ministry members are invited to participate. The overall theme for the Festival this year is *Compassion* and the music will include at least one new original piece by a UU composer.

The First Unitarian Church of Orlando is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and as part of our celebration they are hoping to host 100 or more performers at the Festival. So, singers, please put this date on your calendar and share the information with all Florida UU choir and other music ministry members.

- photo by Ron Dalton

Do you know something we don't? - Regarding the story on page 1 about solar panels, *The Breeze* would like to know if other Florida UU congregations have solar panels in place or are considering them. We'd also like to know which congregations have peace poles. We're aware of the latter at Boca Raton, Bradenton, Clearwater, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Miami, 1U Orlando, Rockledge, St. Augustine, Stuart, Vero Beach and Valdosta. Where else?

These symbols address two of our UU principles: respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. Please let us know if you are aware of others.

"If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors. If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home. If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart."

- Chinese Philosopher Lao-Tse, 6th Century BCE

In the November newsletter of the University UU Society of Orlando, - president Martha Kirby wrote about giving thanks. *One area, however, that often gets overlooked and perhaps taken for granted is the support system that makes everything flow smoothly: the Hospitality committee – do you look forward to that first cup of coffee on Sunday morning? The Greeters – if you have a guest coming and you're busy – isn't it nice to know someone is there to smile, say "Hi," "Welcome," and point them in the right direction? The Sound and Audio functions – isn't it nice when there's no feedback, when you can hear the speaker, and when the words are there for our songs? And what if you can't make it to church – have you ever listened live and thought "how nice!" And what about Service Leaders, Musicians, Singers, the Kitchen Clean-up Crews?"* Thank you, all.

As we head into a new year, it's never too late to thank those who make our congregations work so sweetly and smoothly throughout each month. And thank you, Martha, for the reminder.

2011-2012 UU Calendar for Quick Cluster Check

(All Florida UUs are welcome to attend any Cluster, District or UUA meeting.)

December 2011

- 4 David Cobb, 4 p.m., Creating Democracy and Challenging Corporate Rule - UU Church of Brevard, Melbourne - Free
- 6 David Cobb, 7 p.m. - UU Fellowship of Marion County, Summerfield - Free
- 8 The Ashley Gang, 7 p.m. - Florida songs & stories - Humanities Series, UUF Vero Beach - Free
- 10 Roy Zimmerman, 7 p.m. - political satirical songwriter - UUUS, Orlando - \$15
- 13 Roy Zimmerman, 6 p.m. - UUC, Jacksonville - \$15

January 2012

- 9-13 Preaching and Worship in a Multi-Media Context (CE Workshop for UU ministers), Vero Beach
- 14 Arianna Huffington, founder *Huffington Post* - 4 p.m., 7 p.m. - UUF, Vero Beach - \$65
- 26 Cynthia Barnett, 7 p.m. - "Water Sustainability and the Future of Florida" - UUF Vero Beach - Free

February 2012

- 18 Centennial Celebration - First U, Orlando
- 25-26 (Sixth) Annual Florida District Choral Festival - First U, Orlando

March 2012

- 10 Northeast Cluster Spring Gathering - UU Congregation of Lake County, Eustis
- 23-25 Florida District Assembly - UU Church of Jacksonville

June 2012

- 20-24 UUA General Assembly, Phoenix, AZ

Northeast Cluster, Florida District, Unitarian Universalist Association

Allie Gore, coordinator - indigo8062@earthlink.net - 352-547-9670
Rev. Richard "Bud" Murphy, ministerial consultant - revbudmurphy@earthlink.net - 386-846-1840

Leadership Team

Mavis Greene, Jacksonville - mggreene1@att.net - 904-272-4980
John and Martha Hartgering, Orlando - Jehart9@yahoo.com (John),
posturenurse@yahoo.com (Martha) - 352-242-2437
Jack Kulas, Gainesville - Jack_kulas@hotmail.com - 352-264-7771
Linda Newman, West Volusia - apassionatcook@cfl.rr.com - 386-734-1117
Lola Sorensen, St. Augustine - lolax43@gmail.com - 904-794-0961

Website

Jack Kulas, webmaster - necluster.uufg.org - 352-264-7771
Northeast Breeze, Northeast Cluster Newsletter
Joyce Levi, co-editor - j-levi@earthlink.net - 772-562-9476
Larry Rayner, co-editor - lhrayner4@gmail.com - 321-327-7849

Florida District, Unitarian Universalist Association

Florida District Office, Jessica Curren - FloridaDistrictUUA@cfl.rr.com - 407-894-2119
The Rev. Kenneth G. Hurto, District Executive - khurto@uua.org - 321-422-4625
The Rev. Dr. Randolph W. B. Becker, Lifespan Program Consultant -
rbecker@uua.org - 305-407-7956
Joan Lund, UUA Trustee - Jlund@uua.org - 813-931-9727
Website - www.floridadistrict.org

And one more page...

May Your December Holidays Be Meaningful!



December 5, Ashura - Ashura is a religious observance marked every year by Muslims. The word "ashura" literally means "10th" in Semitic languages, and Ashura falls on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year. For Shi'a Muslims, Ashura rituals and observances consist primarily of public expressions of mourning and grief for the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, a grandson of Muhammad, in 680 CE. For Sunni Muslims, Ashura has been a day of fasting since the days of the early Muslim community, marking two historical events: the day Noah left the Ark, and the day that Moses was saved from the Egyptians by Allah.

In Morocco, Ashura is mainly observed by women and children, and is tied to games and play. All week long, bands of young children gather after school, beating rhythms on small drums or tambourines. They sing, chant, make as much noise as possible and happily cavort through the streets. Sunnis residing in Egypt and Turkey prepare a pudding called Noah's Pudding,

typically shared with neighbors as a sign of mutual love and respect. The story goes that when Noah and his family left the ark, Noah gathered all remaining foodstuffs to make this sweet pudding, which typically includes wheat, rice, beans, chickpeas, sugar, dried fruit and nuts.



December 21 - Hanukkah begins - Hanukkah is the most widely celebrated American Jewish holiday, possibly because it is a fun, child-centered occasion. It is celebrated with excellent food, an exchange of gifts, Hanukkah gelt (money, usually chocolate coins) and dreidels (four-sided spinning tops). The lighting of beautiful menorahs (Hanukkah candelabras) filled with eight brightly colored candles is done with a ninth central one called the shamash (sexton, attendant). Hanukkah means "rededication," and it commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by foreign forces. When the Temple was recaptured, there was only enough ritual olive oil to keep the menorah in the Temple lit for a single day but it miraculously lasted eight nights until new oil could be processed.



December 25 - Christmas - Christmas is a holiday to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity. Although nominally a Christian holiday, Christmas is celebrated by an increasing number of non-Christians worldwide. Many of its customs have pre-Christian or secular themes and origins. Modern Christmas customs include gift-giving, music, an exchange of Christmas cards, church celebrations, a special meal, and various decorations, including Christmas trees, lights, garlands, mistletoe, nativity scenes, and holly. In addition, several figures – Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Santa Claus, among other names – bring gifts to children.



December 26 - Kwanzaa begins - Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States honoring universal African-American heritage and culture, observed from December 26 to January 1. It features activities such as lighting a candle holder with seven candles and culminates in a feast and gift giving. It was created by Ron Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966-1967. The name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning first fruits of the harvest. The choice of Swahili, an East African language, reflects its status as a symbol of Pan-Africanism, especially in the 1960s. Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called

the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Family, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. The holiday greeting is "Joyous Kwanzaa."

