



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists
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Sunday Services 2012

12/30/12 The Nature Coast Dulcimer Players: *A Dulcimer Holiday*

The Nature Coast Dulcimer Players presented the history of the dulcimer which, along with the banjo, is a truly American instrument. The group also presented carols of the season, some of which were familiar and some we had never heard before. The Nature Coast Dulcimer Players have been together for approximately three years. They are the only organized dulcimer group here in Citrus County.



12/23/12 Earth Centered Small Group Ministry: Winter Solstice: *The Dawn of a New Age*

The Earth Centered Small Group Ministry and the NCUU Players presented a light-hearted skit based on the Mayan theory of human evolution. It is well-known that the Mayan Calendar predicts the end of this age on December 21, 2012. On this date the sun will be located in the dark rift of the Milky Way. The Mayan saw this as the sun positioned in the birth canal of the Universal Mother and so a new sun will be born initiating a new age in human evolution.



Our Earth Centered Spirituality Group shares a path of living in harmony with and maintaining a reverence for nature. Our goal is to help each other reclaim our lost spiritual heritage, our affinity with the earth. We use elements of Native American shamanism and Neo-Pagan contemporary paths rooted in Nature folk religions of other cultures. Our mission is to support each other in pursuing our spiritual and personal growth, to provide help and physical and psychological support as we are able, to have fun & not take ourselves too seriously, to serve the mission of the NCUU congregation by providing services and Earth Centered events and contributing to the growing public awareness and understanding of the spiritual interconnections of all life and to seek and respect the common roots of Earth centered philosophies of indigenous peoples around the world.

12/16/12 Dr. Wendell Beane: *The Burning Core of Spiritual Reality*

12/09/12 Judi Siegal: *Torah, Gefilte Fish and Zionism: What It Means to Be Jewish*

Our service today was an overview of Jewish identity and what it means to be a Jew in the modern world. Judi Siegal explored different aspects of Judaism such as culture/peoplehood, religion and Zionism. The group acquired a deeper understanding of the complexity of Jewish identity.

12/02/12 UU Rev Lora Kim Joyner: *Heart of Lightness*

Today we journeyed together into the depths of the human heart to see where hope and possibility lay waiting for us. There is darkness, but by understanding human behavior, evolution, and neurobiology we could lighten our burdens.

Rev. Joyner is a Unitarian Universalist minister, having served in parish ministry for 10 years in North Carolina, Minnesota, Texas, and Florida. Currently she serves as a community minister in Multispecies Ministry and Compassionate Communication. She is also a Certified Trainer in Nonviolent Communication, and a wildlife veterinarian working actively in Latin American avian conservation where she emphasizes the human dimensions of conservation.

11/25/12 UU Rev Abhi Janamanchi: *One God, at Most*

Unitarian Universalists have sometimes been accused of being "allergic" to God, something we ought not to say in public. Many of us tend not to use the word because either it is not part of our theological vocabulary or because we are afraid use of it will be misinterpreted. But, like it or not, God is an inescapable word - some would even say that God is inescapable. The service explored what God means or doesn't mean to Unitarian Universalists.

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi has been serving as the senior minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater since 1999. He is a native of India and a third-generation member of a Unitarian Hindu group, the Brahmo Samaj. He is actively involved in interfaith work in Pinellas County. He also serves as the UUA Ambassador to the Unitarian Union of Northeast India. He and his family live in Safety Harbor, FL.

11/18/12 Renée Zenaida: *Atheists: 21st Century Pariahs or Prophets?*

When surveyed regarding religious affiliation, a growing majority of Americans list atheists as the group they trust the least. Atheist students are bullied; and entire families are shunned. However, despite the criticism and often, fear of reprisal, many atheists are speaking out. Debates between believers and nonbelievers have thrust the topic into the spotlight, and as religious affiliation of any sort is on the decline—the question must be asked: is Atheism the new belief system? As Unitarian Universalists, we welcome the atheists among us. Are we following a trend or leading the way to a new dialogue about the human role in the universe?

Renée Zenaida has a professional background in editing and writing. She is currently a technical editor and writer at an environmental consulting firm in Gainesville, Florida. About six years ago, Renée visited a Unitarian Universalist fellowship for the first time—at the insistence of friends...and “in the hopes” that one visit would satisfy the friends. She’s been a regular ever since; even when in the Czech Republic, the Unitaria in Prague was an un-missable highlight. Renée has been speaking regularly in her home congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, and in congregations around Florida for five years—and is always grateful to share the worship experience with fellow Unitarian Universalists and guests.

11/11/12 Ginny Fitzgerald: *An Old-Fashioned Hymm Sing*

This was a service that took many of us back to the music of our childhood. Each hymn was prefaced by a brief verbal introduction followed by our pianist, Sally Smith-Adams, playing one verse to refresh our memories and then the singing of the hymn. The congregation was encouraged to sit back and sing to their hearts'

content!

Ginny Fitzgerald is a member of NCUU who has happily been a UU for the last 22 years.

11/04/12 Don Wright: *The Interdependent Web of All Existence*

The seventh Unitarian Universalist principle states: “ We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”. To reasonable people, this principle is fundamental. The belief that all things are interdependent becomes increasingly compelling when one thinks about it in an objective and analytical way. In this presentation, Don shared some perspectives on interdependence from a diversity of scientific and eastern philosophical sources. Ego fades and love and compassion emerge when one attains a deep realization of the interdependence, or “oneness”, of all existence.

Don is a current resident of Inglis since retiring in 2007 from the College of William and Mary where he was a professor of marine science and served as Dean of the School of Marine Science. He has been married to Jeanne since 1965. They have two daughters and one grandson. Don has been a member of NCUU since 2010. He also has a current part time position as Director of Coastal and Environmental Research, Southeastern Universities Research Association. His hobbies and interests include environmental advocacy, SCUBA diving, hiking, kayaking, Eastern religions, and Zen meditation.

10/28/12 Earth Spirituality Group of NCUU: *Honoring Dia de los Muertos*

The Earth-Centered Group traditionally offers services that shed light on traditions different than our own. On this day they focused on the Hispanic/ Latino folk tradition of the *Day of the Dead*. Our fourth principle of Unitarian Universalism is that we believe in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. *Day of the Dead* invites us to challenge collective ideas about dying, gives voice to those who mourn, and offers comfort through remembering. *Dia de los Meurtos* is a simple ceremony that mixes celebration and mourning; that affirms life and shares grief. It is ultimately about celebrating life. It reminds us of our place in time and our mortality. It reminds us that to live is to create a legacy that endures for generations. Ultimately, then *Dia de los Meurtos* celebrates life.



10/21/12 Joan Burnett: *The 2012 UUA Justice General Assembly*

The UUA General Assembly held in June, 2012, at the Phoenix AZ Convention Center had as its focus not only the issue of immigration but other segments of our population who are marginalized or even brutalized. These issues affect our nation, state and our congregations. We will hear a firsthand account of this historic gathering with the goal of seeing clearly why the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations chose to hold a “Justice” General Assembly.

Joan Burnett has been a member of NCUU since 2001. She has served the fellowship as a board member, chairman of the membership committee, chairman of the Denominational Affairs committee, and as a member of several other committees. She has also served the Florida District as a member of the District Board of Directors.

10/14/12 Doug Worthington: *Different Ways of Showing Affection and/or Friendship for Someone*

There are five basic ways that one might choose to show affection for another person. These are: giving gifts, sharing quality time, physical touch, acts of service, and affirming words. If we were to rank these five ways for a particular individual, there would be a primary love language and a secondary love language. It's very helpful to know the primary love language for someone you especially care about.

Doug Worthington moved to The Villages in 2006 shortly after he retired from 30 years in independent schools as an administrator, teacher, and coach. Doug began his teaching career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in remote Ethiopia, teaching English as a second language. Doug chairs the Sunday Service Committee at UUF of Marion County. He helps to schedule presenters for each Sunday morning and is on the board of trustees for the fellowship.

10/07/12 UU Rev Susanne Nazian: *That Pesky Second Amendment*

What does it appear the founding fathers meant by the language of the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution? And how might that inform a reasonable

solution to the impasse that fails to allow gun control legislation that actually works to be passed?

09/30/12 UU Rev Amy Carol Webb: *Truth Be Told*

Our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle states that we “affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” We tend to do the "free" part pretty well, but what does a "responsible" search for truth really mean? To us? To our community? To our world?

The Reverend Amy Carol Webb grew up knowing she wanted to sing and preach. After a long and winding spiritual road, she found her full voice in Unitarian Universalism, and was ordained in May 2011. She is currently working as a hospice Chaplain, and is Consulting Minister to the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Davie, Florida. In addition, she continues to minister through music, performing and composing music to expand and explore the humanity in divinity and the divinity in humanity. She has just released her 9th CD, entitled “Welcome Home.”

09/23/12 NCUU Earth Centered Small Group Ministry: *Spirituality of Water*

The Water Communion was first presented at a Unitarian Universalist service in the 1980s. Members bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. At the appointed time, one by one they pour their water into a large bowl. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.

We were able to look to the world's spiritual traditions as a source for creating a new paradigm for the way we manage our water resources.

09/16/12 Jim McIntosh: *Cats, Quantum Physics & Why We Think The Way We Do*

It is often exasperating to deal with people who doggedly stick to an idea or concept that almost everyone else sees as totally false. Cats and quantum physics give us a hint about how decisions are made. Our minds are evolving but we are not quite perfect yet.

Jim McIntosh has been member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County for the last five years. In addition to speaking on a once a month basis he is presently the Fellowship treasurer, the chair of the finance committee, co-chair of the Forum committee and member of the Board of Trustees. In 2007 he won the John DeWolf Hurt Levity Award from the Florida District UUA, given to honor a person who remembers the value of humor in congregational life.

09/09/12 Judi Siegal: *Palms, Willows, Citrons and Torah Scrolls: The Jewish Fall Festivals of Thanksgiving and Joy*

Judi Siegal, encore presenter for NCUU, shared the wisdom and traditions of her Jewish heritage. She spoke about the lesser known fall festivals, namely, Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabbah, Sh"mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. We also learned about the lulav and the etrog and the arba'ah minim.

Judi Siegal has been a newspaper columnist. Her popular column on Judaism, *Judi's Journal*, appears bi-monthly in the *South Marion Citizen* and the *Citrus County Chronicle*. Most recently, she is the president of Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala, a liberal Jewish congregation she has helped to form.

09/02/12 Raymond Devries and Linda Myers: *A Spirituality Rhythm Circle*

On this Labor Day Sunday Linda Myers and Ray DeVries (of DRUM IT UP) will present why drumming is appropriate and central to spiritual activities and show how a drum circle creates a sense of community. They will provide drums and similar instruments for everyone. Ray will lead us from a group of tentative individuals to a community creating its own rhythmic hymn. Come and join us!

08/26/12 Don Hess: *The Seminal Principal of the Recovery of the Economy of the United States*

This presentation will demonstrate that the root causes of almost all of our economic problems can be traced by following the money. In the end analysis, America's "Brutal Bullies of Big Business" must be stopped or the ongoing decline of our society will not be corrected.

Don Hess is a businessman, farmer, army veteran, pilot, frequent community newspaper columnist, self-directed investor, and a professional pool player.

08/19/12 Ginny Fitzgerald: *A UU Response to Faith-Based Politics*

This was a sermon originally delivered by the Rev. Dr. Barbara Jamestone on January 23, 2005 when she was interim minister at UUF, Gainesville and was presented with the author's permission. It addressed the response of UUs to faith-based politics following the 2004 elections and is still relevant today. Questions were presented that gave those of all religious beliefs topics to ponder.

Reading Rev. Jamestone's sermon was Ginny Fitzgerald, a member of NCUU who has happily been a UU for the last 22 years.

08/12/12 UU Rev Brock Leach: *Water, Food and Human Rights: A Holy Trinity*

Climate change and continued population growth are certain to change the way we produce, distribute and consume food and water, with potentially devastating

results for marginalized people. While the science suggests there can be enough food and water for all of us, our success ensuring that will be determined in large measure by the foundational religious worldview and ethics we bring to these challenges.

Rev. Brock Leach is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and vice president of mission, strategy and innovation at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Brock's ministry is centered on strengthening the agency's impact and launching the UU College of Social Justice, a program designed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice. Brock is a community minister of the UU Church of Sarasota.

08/05/12 Rev Warren Thompson: *Medical Ethics and Compassion*

When dealing with serious medical issues, how do ethics and compassion help us make informed decisions? Rev Thompson has been the Senior Chaplain with Hospice of Marion County since 1994.

07/29/12 Richard Curtis: *It isn't Easy Being Green*

We may see that Jim Henson, or his alter ego Kermit the Frog, had it right; "It Isn't Easy Being Green." The lyric's of that song are about knowing who you are and that it's okay to be different...something adoptees relate to and have searched for all their lives.

On this day we heard about the journey of the adoptee, birthparents, adoptive parents and others affected by adoption, from the adoptee's perspective.

Richard Curtis was born, relinquished and adopted in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended public schools, college and universities in Ohio. His professional and work life was in College Counseling and Student Affairs Administration. In 1993 he began the search for his family of origin. Currently he is an active member of American Adoption Congress and serves on the Advisory Board of the Daniel Memorial Florida Adoption Information Center.

07/22/12 JoLaine Jones-Pokorney: *Sacred Differences*

Unitarian Universalists invite differences. We say we are "many beliefs in one faith", but inviting many beliefs also invites conflict. As Unitarian Universalists, how do we address the conflicts that come up? How do we "love alike" when we don't "think alike"?

JoLaine Jones-Pokorney has been a Unitarian Universalists for twenty years and is currently Chair of the Rights Relations Team and a Worship Elder at the Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville. JoLaine served on the faculty of the Mountain School of Congregational leadership from 1999-2006, in the later years being the lecturer on conflict management. She also performs weddings, ceremonies of union, baby dedication and renewal of vows ceremonies.

07/15/12 Stan Brumaghim and the Dead Poets Society of NCUU:
Inspirational Moments Along the Open Road

On this day we heard reflections on the words of well-known poets such as Walt Whitman and others concerning travel and the open road. Members of the congregation shared inspirational moments of their journey/travels. Stan Brumaghim and Members of the NCUU congregation came together, as the Dead Poets Society in order to present "Inspirational Moments Along the Open Road". Members of the congregation also participated in an "Open Mike Poetry Reading" after refreshments, rather than our usual question and answer "talk back" time.

07/08/12 UU Rev Abhi Janamanchi: *Burning Bushels*

What is NCUU's purpose and mission in the world? Why does it matter? This service explored the importance of being a mission-driven congregation. Rev. Abhi Janamanchi is the senior minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater (UUC) in Clearwater, Florida.

07/01/12 Ray O'Connell: *America: Persons, Places and Things, Mostly Good: Let's revisit it Together*

We heard a presentation with special music celebrating our country's 236th birthday. Ray became a UUER in 1959. He earned a Master's in Education and for 24 years and taught mainstream plus special education students. Ray also served in the Army Reserves and retired in 1979 as a Lieutenant Col., after 22 years of service. In 1992 Ray volunteered for the Peace Corp as a teacher trainer and served in Africa for 3 1/2 years. This is where he met and married Madelena. He is one of the founding members of NCUU.

06/24/12 Jean McCauley: *The Unitarian Universalist Story*

Jean McCauley, a member of NCUU, presented, with permission, a sermon written by Rev. Richard Fewkes, Minister Emeritus at First Parish Bridgewater Unitarian Universalist Church in Bridgewater, MA. The sermon was entitled, "The Unitarian Universalist Story". This sermon, originally presented in 2001, described some well-known and some not so well-known Unitarians and Universalists, as well as the journey of Unitarian Universalists in America.

06/17/12 Father's Day Service: *My Father*

Four members of our fellowship spoke about their fathers' influence on their lives. After the service we had a special, short ceremony at our Memorial garden to honor

our fathers.

06/10/12 Susan Seguin: *Meeting the Spirit*

This Sunday we heard about Ms. Seguin's personal journey into Quakerism, the spiritual and practical aspects that drew her, and some Quaker concerns today. Ms. Seguin was introduced to Quakerism in her teens and is sojourning member of the Cleveland (Ohio) Friends Meeting. She has been a Quaker for forty years and has attended Friends Meetings in Ohio, New York, Vermont, Quebec and Florida.

06/03/12 UU Rev Janet Onnie: *The Goat in the Pick-Up Truck*

Change is inevitable, but we have some choices on how to cope with it. This Sunday we explored four ways to look at our changing times through a UU lens. We were also helped along by a goat.

Reverend Janet Onnie is currently serving as the consulting minister to the UU Fellowship of Marion County. She also serves the UUA Florida District as a program associate, lately collaborating on a webinar and workshop on "Power from the Pews: Influencing and Shaping Congregational Leaders". In 2010 she was elected as Treasurer of the Florida UU Ministers Association. She has supplied pulpits throughout Florida and the Caribbean, and trained congregations in the program of Lay Pastoral Care Associates. Most recently she was named as one of 24 national facilitators in the UU Ministers Association multi-cultural training program, "Who Are Our Neighbors".

05/27/12 UU Rev. Dee Graham: *What Purpose Does Violence Serve in the Goal of World Peace?*

Universal ethical principles agree that killing another person is wrong, yet liberty and justice frequently involve wars and the death penalty. Considering the recent brutal murder of a family member in the context of religious and moral principles to "do no harm," the Rev. Dee Graham shared a personal take on the goal of world community.

05/20/12 Polly Keene: *Transitions: Living With the Changes That Come With Aging*

Polly Keene, a member of NCUU, shared with us her experience of transitioning from solitary, independent living to a group living environment, where many decisions have been made for her. We all had the opportunity to express and share our own feelings about the aging process in America: how y aging has affected us, our children, our parents and our relationships with significant members of our lives.

05/13/12 Renee Zenaida: *Romantizing Mary: the Wars on Women*

The Mary figure presented in the New Testament, interpreted and reinterpreted ever since, marks a critical turning point in the perception of women. The road from symbolizing fecundity and life to the Immaculate Conception and beyond is a long and complicated one. Misconceptions and missed interpretations have led to misogynistic wars on women through time; wars still waged and reignited in our time. Walking Mary's road leads us into reflection on each of our seven Unitarian Universalist principles. This will aid us with making the choices ahead, not only for the generations of women represented in our congregations, but for all generations of women, and men to come.

On Mother's Day we had a special, short ceremony at the close of the service to go to our Memorial Garden. We each placed a flower somewhere in the garden to remember and honor our mother. It was a beautiful and touching ceremony.



05/06/12 Art Jones: *Saving Kings Bay*

Art Jones, a member of NCUU, guided us on how to bring a community together for a positive common goal in order to respect the web of life and the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings. His project is associated with the Crystal River-Kings Bay Rotary Club.

04/29/12 Bonnie Whitehurst: *Living Well At All Ages and Stages*

On this day we heard about music and strategies regarding health, well-being and living life to the fullest; how to acquire peace, happiness and satisfaction in everyday life.

Bonnie Whitehurst has been playing music in UU churches since the 1970's. She is a fulltime music teacher and liturgical musician with several denominations. Ms. Whitehurst is the music director for the UU Church of Tarpon Springs. She has a master's degree in music theory and is working on the recording of her 10th CD, Irish music.

04/22/12 Cantor Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot : *The History of Judaism*

We were pleased to welcome Cantor Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot to our fellowship. He enlightened us as to how Judaism relates to our Unitarian Universalist principles. Cantor Kamlot has served as the Cantor/Spiritual Leader of the Congregation Beth Sholom of Citrus County since August, 2008.

04/15/12 *Articulating Your Faith* and the NCUU Annual Meeting

04/08/12 UU Rev Mary Louise DeWolf : *A Unitarian Universalist Easter Parade*

How do UUs celebrate Easter? The answer may be found in your own words, for UUs all have different ways of thinking about it, as they quite frequently do about any subject. Rev DeWolf suggested we try making up our answers before coming to the Sunday service. Christian and pre-Christian meanings were considered as well as some other modern ideas.

04/01/12 Dr Wendell Charles Beane: *The Three Great Monotheisms and World Peace*

Dr. Beane will offer us a creative way to understand the presence of a baffling variety of religious conceptions and practices abroad in the world today. Moreover, he will stress the need to recognize and practice a universal core of spiritual values capable of fostering peace on earth and good will toward one another.

03/25/12 UU Rev Leah Hart-Landsburg: *A Great Pilgrimage*

A pilgrimage is more than just a trip or vacation. It's a search of great moral significance,

often a journey to a sacred place. Why go on a pilgrimage? What is there to be learned by stepping away from normal daily life? Does pilgrimage help us see our familiar home differently? We explored the lessons of the annual UU Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage, a tour of the American South that seeks to re-imagine social possibility in the world today by experiencing the depth of human spirit in the Civil Rights Movement.

Rev. Leah Hart-Landsberg is Minister of Lifespan Faith Development at the UU Fellowship of Gainesville in North Central Florida. Raised in a UU and Jewish family in Portland, Oregon, she is President of UUs for Jewish Awareness. She graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2009. She lives with her partner Amy, their pet fish and a few stray cats who seem to be attempting to adopt them.

S.O.U.L. (Singers of United Lands)
a touring group of four professional singers from four different continents
performed as part of the Sunday service.

03/18/12 Dr. Hal Sands: *Love and Man's Search for Meaning*
One of the principles which Unitarians/Universalists affirm and promote is the free and responsible search for freedom. In his talk, Dr. Hal Sands concentrated on the role that love plays in that search. Dr. Sands currently serves as co-chairperson of the Sunday Service Committee of the UU of Marion County. He is an Emeritus Professor of Psychology at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

03/11/12 Gordon "Nick" Nichols: *Love Heals*
Nick Nichols, a very active member of NCUU, spoke on the importance of love in our lives and in our fellowship.

03/04/12 Singing Tree conducted our fellowship's service with music with Lloyd Goldstein as the primary speaker. Lloyd spoke about his training as a Certified Music Practitioner and his work playing music for patients at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

At 2:30 pm Singing Tree with Ray Belanger on the Hammered Dulcimer and Lloyd Goldstein on the Double Bass gave a two-hour concert at NCUU. Singing Tree performs folk music from around the world with traditional, classical and contemporary approaches.

02/26/12 UU_Rev Lorain Joyner, DVM: *Reverence for Life: Embracing Life Together*

Today we celebrated our relationships with nonhuman animals by considering the wonder of the interdependent web of existence. Becoming more aware of this interconnection brings us a greater sense of belonging, and also a growing sense of how we are connected to one another in beauty and in harm. So great is the tragedy around us, we can be overwhelmed and elect to turn away. Instead we may choose to embrace all this is life so that we may live lives of compassion, joy, and reverence for the individuals and species in our human and ecological communities. **We ended the service with an animal blessing with nonhuman animal companions or pictures or mementos of their lives.**

02/12/12 Castlebay has been musically weaving together the heritage of New England and the Celtic

lands since 1987. Members Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee have loved and researched traditional music for most of their lives and blend history, legend and experience into their personable performance style. Their concerts feature poignant ballads sung in Lane's ethereal soprano and Gosbee's rich baritone interspersed with joyous dance tunes played on Celtic harp, guitar, fiddle and tin whistle. Castlebay treats the audience to a musical journey through time and across the Atlantic.

02/05/12 **Laura Pedersen: *What's Your Story?***

Cave drawings suggest that stories have been with us since humans first walked together on Earth. A powerful story can do many things, such as help us make sense of our world or shed light on a dire situation that couldn't get attention otherwise. On the downside, a well-told story can overwhelm the facts at hand. We'll take a look at how stories unite and divide us.

01/29/12 **Joan Lund: *The Joy of Association***

Our UUA Florida District Trustee spoke about the role of the UUA Board of Trustees, changes to Board operation commencing in 2013 and the importance of "association". She has recently returned from one of the four annual Board meetings and will bring the latest news.

01/22/12 **UU Rev Brock Leach: *A Not So Little Faith***

We may be small in numbers, but our UU faith is as big as the world. In fact, it is the world itself in which we place our faith. Unique among religions of the western tradition, ours dares to proclaim faith in this holy creation we inhabit and in the possibilities for humanity as instruments of it. We're called out into the larger world as a bold act of faith.

Rev Leach is an ordained UU minister and vice president of mission, strategy and innovation at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). His ministry is centered on strengthening the agency's impact and launching the UUSC's College of Social Justice, a program designed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice.

01/15/12 **Sally Smith-Adams & Linda Myers: *Spirituality in Pop Music:***

Our NCUU Choir Director and our Board President Linda Myers shared how Pop lyrics and music engage so many people.

01/08/12 **Patricia Kittleman: *The Meaning of the Mandala***

A mandala "represents the cosmos, helps discover the soul, is an ancient eastern tradition, especially Buddhist and Hindu". Think of a kaleidoscope – a circle in a square, that is beautiful sacred art. A mandala is used to establish sacred space. Looking at it helps you to focus whenever you meditate and thus becomes your special teaching tool. No two are alike; think of a snowflake.

01/01/12 **Pat Kittleman on *Soul Searching: Who am I really?***