



The Newsletter of the  
Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist Society

APRIL 2008



## Wednesday Evening Programming for April:

### Gentle Yoga

Our very own and very flexible Lisa Lynch will continue to lead her **Gentle Yoga** classes on Wednesdays, April 2-16-23 & 30 from 7:00 until 8:15. Newbies are welcomed to attend, along with experienced yoginis. Bring a mat and dress comfortably!

### General Assembly Study Action Issues

April 9th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Join us for a presentation of the four year study action issue on Peacemaking which began in 2006. This is one of the Study Action issues that will be presented at General Assembly. We will also discuss other shorter term social action programs. This will be of particular interest to our two delegates for General Assembly, but anyone who attends GA is welcome at the business or plenary sessions where these are discussed and voted on. Only the delegates can vote. Anyone who is ready to reach beyond our local congregation is welcome to the information obtained in these studies.

## Pledge Sunday: April 6th (Following a Refreshment Break)

Each April, BBUUS kicks off our annual Pledge Campaign. This is an essential part of our church calendar. It's how we fund the many efforts—great and small—that keep our church operating and growing. From our Sunday services to our religious education programming, to the cost of renting our meeting space, to supporting our denominational organizations—financial support is provided by members and friends of the church. This year, the Board has set a budget goal of \$96,000! (~20% increase from last year), and fully HALF (\$48,000) is earmarked as our “virtual mortgage”—allowing us to prepare for the cost of owning our own building. We are ready! This goal is more than doable with the continued conscientiousness of the committees and their chairs, who have done an excellent job of keeping expenses down while growing services. Over the past year, we have seen tremendous growth in our congregation, and we have witnessed the extraordinary generosity of our members and friends as we move closer to our vision of our own permanent church building.

Please stay for a brief discussion of the proposed 2008-09 Operating Budget for BBUUS. This is your opportunity to provide input and receive clarification of your church budget. Personalized Pledge cards/packets will also be distributed to members and friends at the close of the meeting. The budget will be presented for final vote/approval at our Annual Meeting on May 4th, and the results of our pledge drive will be announced. Child care will be provided for this informational meeting.



Nourishing Our Roots,  
Enabling Our Flight.

BBUUS Pledge Drive 2008-09

*“If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.”*

— JOHN F. KENNEDY

## FROM YOUR D.R.E. • *Brenda Patterson, Director of Religious Education*

For many of our families, Spring Break is here, and as a public school teacher in my “other” life, I’m feeling grateful. I need a break before I spring into action with the many exciting things that are ahead at BBUUS!

It all begins in April. As Florida UUs, the first of two great opportunities for wider UU connection occurs this month – the Annual Meeting of the Florida District in Gainesville April 18-19. The DREs throughout the District will be meeting during that time, sharing goals, areas of concern, and “best practices. As UUs, our other opportunity comes June 25-29 when Ft. Lauderdale hosts the annual UU General Assembly. Thousands of UUs will gather to worship, do the business of the denomination, socialize, and learn together. If you can, join with many from BBUUS who are attending one or both of these events.

Here at home we’ll be doing some exciting things as well. Our Primary and Elementary classes will combine for our annual sleepover/campout, a yearly favorite event. BBUUS kids about to enter middle school or high school will be participating in Transitions, our Coming of Age program, during the Enrichment hour (9-10 AM) from April 6 - May 11th. All of our children and youth will be a part of our annual RE Service where the participants will share their UU experiences with the congregation.

During the six weeks of Transition, we will not be holding our regular Enrichment classes. However, we’re inviting all the parents of kids involved in Transitions to enjoy breakfast or a leisurely Springtime walk together while their kids are in the Transitions classes.

April is also the time when the Lifespan Religious Education Committee and I hope to hear from you about our Sunday morning Enrichment programming. We’ve already begun planning for next year, and your input will be very helpful in that process. We have a short survey that will soon be available both through our website and on paper at church. We’re asking EVERY member and friend of BBUUS to spend about five minutes before the end of April to take the survey. Thank you in advance for your help!

Enrichment will begin again June 1 with our first-time offering of the UU curricula, “Spirit in Practice”, a part of the newly designed Tapestry of Faith program. Tapestry is a series of programs and resources that are being developed from broad and ongoing conversations within Unitarian Universalism. It’s designed to serve as a religious growth and learning program for the twenty-first century. The themes of Tapestry are nurturing Unitarian Universalist identity, encouraging spiritual growth, living a transforming faith, and creating vital communities of justice and love. Churches throughout the UUA are just beginning to use these resources, so BBUUS will be one of the first. “Spirit in Practice” is a 10-week series, with each week functioning as a stand-alone class. Watch for more information about this special program.

That’s what Spring looks like in the life of religious education at BBUUS. Just wait ‘til summer!

See you in church,  
Brenda

### *“Children reinvent your world for you” ~ Susan Sarandon*

Does that phrase sound both hopeful and challenging? We, the parents at BBUUS, believe it to be so we started a small ministry group last year with the hope we could help each other sort through the difficult issues of raising children in 2008. Our mission is to safely explore parenting and theological issues of our UU children in a meaningful yet social environment. Some of our previous topics have included: dealing with the Jesus factor, simplifying our busy lives, fostering gratitude and compassion in our children, and creating ritual and tradition. Our next meeting, Sunday, April 13, 2008 11:45 (downstairs) will be part two of our last discussion of the birds and the bees (sex and puberty).

We WELCOME all members and friends who are interested in topics related to UU parenting. All that we ask is a small donation to cover babysitter expenses while we meet privately to share ideas. Please see either Joann Carollo or Candace Gerding for more information. Both Joann and myself would like to extend our gratitude to the committed core of parents who share with us every 6 weeks their insight and opinion on matters.

(Candace Gerding)



## Visit to Jimmy Carter's Sunday School Class

Recently, BBUUS member Debby Jones visited the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia to attend Jimmy Carter's Sunday School class. Mr. Carter was confident, humble, and sincere. His message is one of peace- to be like Jesus, not a war monger; to spread the love of Christ, without worrying about whether or not people believe the same things or worship in the same way as you do. He was an interesting speaker and a wonderful role model- at 83 years old, he is still going strong. He and several other "political has-beens" ( his term), including Desmond Tutu, will be going on a tour to promote world peace during April. He said they will be making stops in Beirut, Tel Aviv, and Pakistan. It was a remarkable experience, and recommended highly as a weekend getaway.

*"War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children."*

— JIMMY CARTER, NOBEL LECTURE, DEC. 10, 2002



- 04/03 Lauren Spade
- 04/06 Charlotte Jones
- 04/06 Katrina Krause
- 04/07 Valerie Bouffard
- 04/08 Teagan Vickers
- 04/09 Morgan Jarman
- 04/09 David Murphy
- 04/11 Judy Culpepper
- 04/13 Dani Atran
- 04/16 Karen Allstadt
- 04/20 Joann Carollo-Lopez
- 04/28 Jonnie Long
- 04/30 Sarah Ritzmann



- 04/23 Bob & Betty Forbes
- 04/25 Robert & Joann Lopez
- 04/27 Don & Judy Culpepper

## The Legacy Brick Campaign

Since reporting on the campaign's status at the February potluck, the legacy brick fund has grown by an additional \$1,000. What a great result in only one month's time! Between paid orders and pledges, the total raised now stands at \$16,400 with an estimated net of \$13,350.

To keep informed of progress, members can now view The Legacy Brick Campaign binder that lists all of the bricks paid or pledged to-date. Bricks are listed according to "clan," indicating how they will be grouped when installed. You can also preview the inscriptions by perusing the binder, which will be updated monthly. Look for it on the literature table on Sundays.

— AMY ERNHARTH, LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN CHAIR



# A Long Overdue Conversation About Race

March 24, 2008

By Rev. William G. Sinkford, President,  
Unitarian Universalist Association

A commentator on CNN yesterday expressed what I imagine is the feeling of many white Americans in response to Barack Obama's speech about race last week: "Why can't we just go back to being color blind?" In our hearts, most Americans will acknowledge that racism is still at work in the body politic and in our individual lives, regardless of our race or cultural identity. But most would also acknowledge that we haven't yet found a way to move forward to redress the impact of racism, or even a way to productively talk about race in our society or in our lives. We have been stuck for far too long.

Much of the conversation about race is so filled with political correctness that truth is hard to come by. Whites move so easily to denial, citing the progress that has been made in recent decades and glossing over the glaring disparities in opportunity, income, even incarceration that remain. African Americans and people of color generally, including myself, show up defensive, afraid that the reality of our lives will, yet again, be deemed unimportant, that we will, yet again, be made invisible. Honesty has been simply too hard to come by, at least in mixed company.

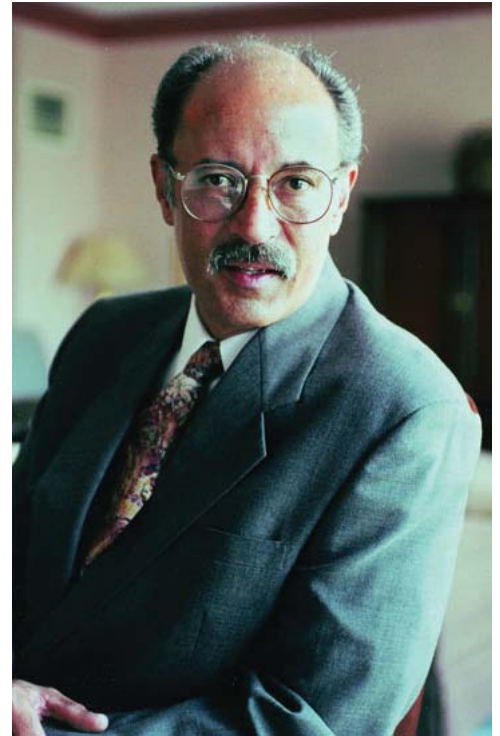
Obama's speech, by naming the honest concerns and fears on both sides of the racial divide, presents us with that rarest of opportunities, an invitation to re-engage with an issue many people would prefer to ignore. I hope and pray that we have the courage to take advantage of this gift.

The religious community has an important role to play. Forty-five years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observed that 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning was the most segregated hour in America. It was true when Dr. King said it, and it is still true today. But the religious community knows something about confession, reconciliation, and forgiveness. At least we say we do.

Although thoughtful statements from national religious bodies are a start, the real work needs to be done closer to home, in our families and in our congregations. If we can be both honest and open-hearted, there is a chance that we can move beyond the impasse that blocks our path into a place where true reconciliation may be possible. There are excellent resources to help Unitarian Universalist congregations and families in having this conversation. The Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and many others have their own resources as well.

This message is not a political endorsement of Senator Obama, but it is support for his courage and leadership in calling us to a long overdue conversation about race. That conversation needs to move forward regardless of who is elected to our national leadership in November.

For more information contact [president-assist @ uua.org](mailto:president-assist@uua.org).



# Kids Corner



Here are some wonderful photos taken by Deborah Cillo at the Blue Springs Manatee outing. Check out the mother and baby swimming together, nursing and loving each other in the springs!



Our own Katrina Krause played the violin in the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra concert on March 9th. This concert occurs every year and is performed by Children and Youth whose talents are mind blowing. This is an inspiring experience. Thanks to Katrina for sharing her talents!

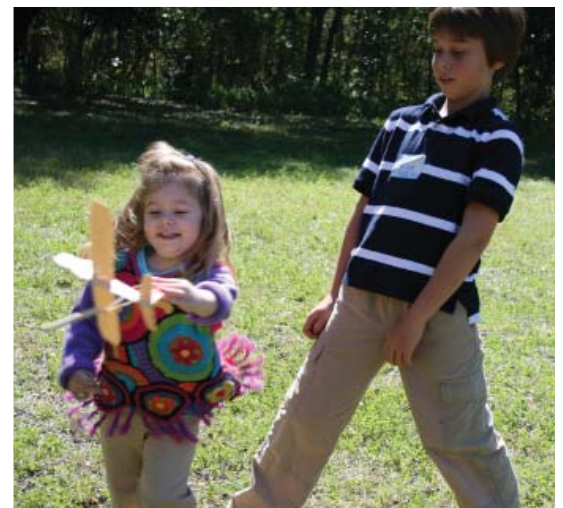






Our children joined Peter and Nick Grogan for a fun BBUUS flying circus on February 24th.

Peter provided gliders and children also got a chance to make their own. We also learned that Peter is a hang glider pilot! If you missed our first BBUUS flying circus, don't worry, we'll have another one soon...





## Thankful for these gifts...

### Gifts made during February, 2008:

#### Memorials:

Legacy bricks were given by:  
Ron Ferster in loving memory of  
his mother  
Arleen Vincent in loving memory  
of George Roberts

#### Building Fund

Participants of yoga donated a  
collective total of \$136 in  
appreciation of Lisa Lynch's  
instruction  
Jim & Nancy Krause

#### Legacy Brick Donations

Ron Nowak  
Pat & John Morton in honor of  
Ron Nowak  
Vicky & Mark Wolf in honor of  
the Allstadt family

#### Pennies from Heaven

The congregation contributed \$90  
in February to be donated to Meals  
on Wheels.

*Many thanks to all members and  
friends who pledge and contrib-  
ute to our operating Fund. Your  
support helps support our Build-  
ing Fund through the Virtual  
Mortgage!*

## Joys & Concerns

Our deepest condolences are extended to **Dani Slader** (formerly Dani Atran) and her family on the loss of Dani's aunt **Helen Tyson** in March. Dani described her mother's youngest sister Helen as a strong person who wanted to everyone around her to be cared for and taken care of - and she especially centered her life around children. Billy Thomas performed a beautiful ceremony for Dani's family.

Congratulations to **Joshua Dean**! Joshua's team was the total point winner of the 1st Annual EcoEd Lego League Competition of Jacksonville. His team—the EcoBots—won total points in the robot building competition!

Our well wishes are with Ellen Miceli's mother **Miriam Maier**. She is recovering from bronchitis in the rehab facility of St. Luke's hospital. We hope to see Ellen's mom back at church soon!

We're so proud of our own **Kirby Kines**! Kris and Bill's son Kirby volunteered to partner with and coach an Orange Park Junior High student in the Special Olympics and Kirby's partner won a gold medal!

Finally we send our heartfelt condolences to our frequent and beloved speaker **Sheila Harty** on the passing of her mother (age 91) on February 27. Your BBUUS family is thinking of you and we send our love and support.

If you have a joy or concern that you would like to include in The Journey, please contact Tara Crisp, Caring Committee Chair, at 264-1545 with the details before the monthly Journey deadline!

## General Assembly Delegates Chosen

All UUA certified member congregations may send voting delegates to General Assembly (GA). Voting delegates may speak on the Plenary floor (subject to rules of order), vote in Plenary, sign petitions for Actions of Immediate Witness, and vote in elections taking place at GA. Delegate credential cards are mailed in early May to certified congregations for distribution to congregational delegates. The BBUUS Board is pleased to announce the selection of our two delegates this year: **Jennifer Glassman and Joann Carollo**. Jennifer and Joann will represent our congregation at the Plenary sessions in Ft. Lauderdale. Several other members of BBUUS plan to attend GA as well, and we're looking forward to a healthy participation. Linda Mowers will hold a meeting in May for all GA attendees to prepare for the experience. Watch for details!

### Refreshments

April 6 Laura Frazier  
April 13 Leslie Sheffield  
April 20 Charlotte Jones  
April 27 Volunteer needed



### Greeters & Ushers

April 6 Linda Mowers  
April 13 Volunteer needed  
April 20 Volunteer needed  
April 27 Volunteer needed

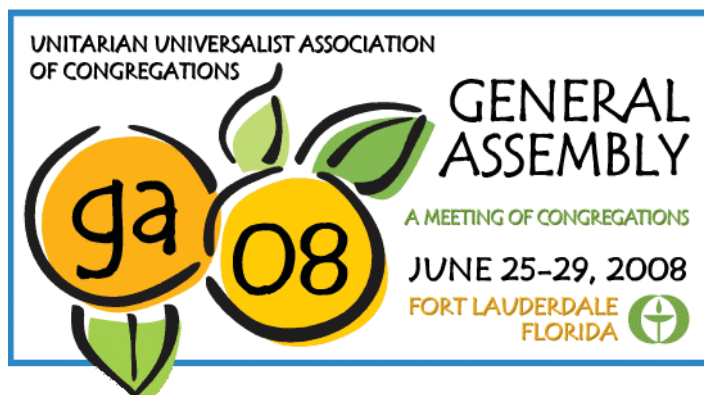


# A General Assembly Primer:

**General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations**  
**June 25-29, 2008 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Theme: **Common Threads**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees.



Future GAs will be held on the dates and locations below:

June 24-28: 2009 Salt Lake City, UT • June 23-27: 2010 Minneapolis, MN • June: 2011 Charlotte, NC

## **Study/Action Issues & Process**

The Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism affirms and promotes the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process. In keeping with this, the way in which our denomination arrives at consensus on various social issues is by a democratically agreed upon process called the Social Witness Process, named as such because we bear witness to social inequity. The Social Witness Process is facilitated by the Commission on Social Witness. It currently generates two types of consensus statements, Statements of Conscience, which result from study and action on a selected issue, and Actions of Immediate Witness. For more information, see the Social Witness Process section on the [uua.org](http://uua.org) website.

## **Congregational Study/Action Issues & Statements of Conscience**

The Current Study/Action Issues include “Peacemaking,” which was adopted in 2006 in St. Louis, MO, to be the Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2006-2010. The Peacemaking Core Team has been created to assist in guiding implementation of the Peacemaking CSAI. For the latest in Peacemaking CSAI activity, visit the Peacemaking homepage at [uua.org](http://uua.org). Congregational delegates will vote on the next possible Study/Action issue during General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale. Recently addressed Social Witness Issues include the 2006 Statement of Conscience “Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change,” and the 2007 Statement of Conscience, “Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society.”

## **Social Justice Statements**

Unitarian and Universalist Social Witness began when the faiths began—hundreds of years ago. It is both impossible and undesirable to separate Unitarian and Universalist history from the social and political movements of the years. When the Unitarians and the Universalists merged in 1961, the resulting Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations inherited a proud legacy of social justice activism.

## **Actions of Immediate Witness passed at General Assembly 2007 were:**

Social Support for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women  
Support Immigrant Families—Stop the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Raids  
Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education Legislation  
Stop U.S. Sponsored Torture—A Religious Call to Action  
Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”  
Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with Transgender Inclusion and Protection

## **Congregational Poll Results**

Determining What Proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) Will Appear on the GA 2008 Agenda



A Congregational Poll was distributed to receive input on whether to post both, either, or neither of the two proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues on the GA 2008 agenda. Under new social witness bylaws, a 25% quorum of certified congregations must participate in this poll for the process to move forward. This quorum was surpassed, and congregations voted to move both proposed CSAIs onto the General Assembly (GA) 2008 Agenda. Specific results are:

**CSAI-1: Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice**

**CSAI-2: Nuclear Disarmament**

### **Our Values in Practice**

The General Assembly Planning Committee seeks to plan our meeting in concert with our shared values of responsibility, inclusivity, and equality. We demonstrate our institutional commitment to these values by actively working toward making our meeting more environmentally sustainable, by practicing care and concern for the issues related to accessibility, and by acting consistently within our constituency.

## **UU University 2008: Ministry in the Borderlands**

*If you want to increase your knowledge and ability to serve your congregation, UU University is for you!*

Unitarian Universalist University (UU University) is a gathering just before General Assembly (GA) of congregational leaders of all kinds.

The theme speaker for the third annual UU University will be the Rev. Dr. Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School. Dr. Carter will be working with us on how to lead through the borderlands of difference that naturally occur in a context of diversity: diversity of thought, diversity of opinions, diversity of theologies, diversity of any kind.

Dr. Carter will examine the dimensions of the “borderlands” as well as its pathologies. He will ask us to look at ourselves, our congregations, and our surrounding communities and understand the unique challenges of diversity of many kinds in each of these contexts.

*When do our differences make us uncomfortable?*

*How do we lead a congregation with so many opinions and perspectives?*

*How do we develop respectful partnerships in the surrounding community?*

Congregational leaders of all kinds are invited to participate in UU University. It will be held at the Grand Hotel across from the Convention Center, and you can register beginning March 1, 2008. UU University 2008 begins at noon on Tuesday, June 24, and concludes at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25.

General Assembly is a great experience for most Unitarian Universalists! Imagine a gathering of thousands of UU's (last year's attendance was 5,697) for five days of governance, worship, education/workshops, lectures, social gatherings, music, dance, performance, and a hall full of UU-oriented wares: books, clothing, art, jewelry, curricula, UU promotional items, and booths for a plethora of UU-supported causes and projects. Whew! It's a great experience!

With G.A. being held so close this year -- in Ft. Lauderdale -- there are many more people planning to attend than usual from our congregation. Aside from our two delegates, Jennifer Glassman and Joann Carollo, many of us are planning to attend for the many opportunities for growth and expression at GA.

If you are planning to attend GA this year, please let Linda Mowers, BBUUS President, know of your intentions. Some carpooling or shared accommodations may be possible, and we also may plan a gathering of BBUUS attendees sometime during the week. In addition, Linda is planning to ask those attending to gather during the month of May for a “GA 101” session -- after our credentials and agendas arrive. Let her know you are planning to participate so that you can join our gathering for some General Assembly Prep!

Registration before May 1 has some financial advantages, and hotels fill up quickly in the GA area.

# Advice Column:

## Ask a U-U

April 2008

*Dear Hosea, One Sunday a few weeks back, we heard from an informative guest speaker who described your successes in church building during the early years of the Universalist Church. It was so inspiring! You spread the word. But how did you raise the money to put up the buildings?*

— CONCERNED ABOUT BRICKS AND MORTAR IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Dear Concerned,

Oh, yes, yes, building a church can be, for sure, a most daunting affair, but it is so much easier when you truly believe in what you are doing. Remember that a church is always first and foremost about the people. A church can only be successful if it serves the people and if it is a true community. Then, from this community will come the building.

In the young American wilderness in which I traveled, so many people felt alone both geographically and spiritually. They could not relate to the religions of their neighbors, many of whom believed in the vindictive god who seemed intent on condemning as many souls as possible. Universalism offered them love, hope and salvation, and they responded by joining in and then by erecting the buildings to house these new and expanding congregations.

I understand there are many people in Northeast Florida in

the twenty-first century who feel equally isolated spiritually. By building a church you will be offering them a “home in the wilderness”. But, how can this be done?

When asking people to step forward to contribute their time, talents and money, I often thought of the story of the “miracle of the fishes and loaves”. If you recall, the story goes that after listening to Jesus deliver a sermon, the throngs of people who had come to hear him were hungry. At first it seemed there was little food, but when the crowd was asked to open up their dinner pails and to take out and share their dinners, there was more than enough to eat. Not only did Jesus inspire them, he also gave them a way to help out and then asked each one to participate. And, yes, some people did have more fishes and loaves, but they all shared. You can do the same in building your congregation.

You have many fine people who have been so inspired that they have become members and friends of your congregation. All you need to do is to give these fine people a way to participate and then to ask them to join in. The answer is already in your hands.

Tell them about the “Legacy Bricks” and explain how these will help build your church. Show them the Legacy Brick cards. Then, ask people to participate by filling out the cards reminding them that each name, each brick is another step closer to the goal. Let them know that they may get several bricks either by themselves or by asking family members and friends to join in the building of the entry walkway to your new church. Each time they walk up to their new church not only will they see their own names, but they

will see their brick surrounded by those they love.

Build your church one member at a time, one brick at a time.

— HOSEA BALLOU

*The April 2008 “Ask a U-U” advice column is the first of what will be a regular feature of the BBUUS “Journey.” Please direct all letters and comments to: AskUU@bbuus.org.*

**Hosea Ballou** (April 30, 1771-June 7, 1852) was the most influential of the preachers in the second generation of the Universalist movement. His book, *A Treatise on Atonement*, radically altered the thinking of his colleagues in the ministry and their congregations.

## Can Recycling Project at BBUUS

Kudos to Betty Forbes who has faithfully collected cans on Sunday morning for recycling for quite a long stint. The funds have been contributed to the building fund, and the practice of recycling and its benefits have been good for the church. Betty’s busy schedule has necessitated that her time for this project come to a close. Currently, Barry Mowers has agreed to continue to accept the cans on Sunday mornings and take them to the recycle center for the church until we are able to find another volunteer to take on this wonderful project. If you are interested in volunteering to oversee this project and transport the cans to the recycle center, please contact Linda Mowers or any board member.



# April Schedule of Services

Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at The Mandarin Community Club,  
12447 Mandarin Rd. (corner of Brady Rd.), Jacksonville, Florida, unless otherwise noted  
Church Phone: 904-276-3739 • Community Club Phone (Sunday a.m. only): 904-268-1622  
Enrichment programs are held on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10:00, and on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

April 6 9:00 a.m.: Transitions  
10:30 a.m.: **Rev. Jack Ford** presents *“The Splendor of Life”*  
What do scuba diving, Emmy Awards, and 12 step programs have in common? And what does any of that have to do with the health of our planet? I don’t know either but come to church next Sunday and we’ll figure it out together.  
(Lay Leader: Ann Marie Shrader) (Accompanist: Gary Smart)

**Pledge Sunday:** Congregational meeting after a brief refreshment break to present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008/09 (beginning July 1) and to distribute pledge cards. Child care available.

April 13 9:00 a.m.: Transitions  
10:30 a.m.: **Dr. Mark Vickers** presents *“Eliminating Hate”*  
Dr. Mark Vickers is the southeastern U.S. representative for the incredible diversity and anti-hate program “Journey to a Hate Free Millennium.” Come hear Dr. Vickers explore the issue of hate in our schools, our society, and how we can eliminate hate from our lives.  
(Lay Leader: Kris Kines) (Accompanist: Paul Marquardt)

April 20 9:00 a.m.: Transitions  
10:30 a.m.: **Sheila Harty** presents *“How Zoroastrian Persia Became Shiite Iran”*  
To offset negative images of Iran arising from some current political circles, Theologian Sheila Harty has studied the history of Zoroastrianism and Persia to help explain how Islam and Shiism turned this ancient culture into a theocracy after 2,500 years as a monarchy. Although Islam had its start in Arabia and much of the Islamic world is influenced by Arabic culture, Iran is not Arabic but Persian. Ironically, ancient Persia was the first religiously tolerant empire. It was Cyrus the Great who liberated the Jews from their exile in Babylon. It was the religion of the Persian prophet Zarathrustra that had the most influence on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—from belief in heaven and hell, messianic redemption, and prayers five times a day. Despite Shiism itself starting in the 7th century, the Shiite dominance of Persia didn’t begin until the 16th century. The British, Russians, and Americans also have much to account for in their manipulation of this strategic land and its oil resources. We all need a history lesson. The volatility of Iran is actually not nuclear but the 70 percent of the population who are under 30.  
(Lay Leader: Lisa Lynch) (Accompanist: Marilyn Smart)

April 27 9:00 a.m.: Transitions  
10:30 a.m.: **Elizabeth Teal** presents *“LUUV”*  
LUUV, a Unitarian Universalist perspective on God’s Will and Love Sweet Love!  
(Lay Leader: Deborah Jones) (Accompanist: Gary Smart)

## *Coming to the BBUUS Pulpit This Spring:*

Dr. Mark Yount (BBUUS Member and Philosopher), Mother’s Day Service (led by Kris Kines and Gina Norstedt, BBUUS Members), RE Sunday (led by BBUUS DRE Brenda Patterson), Memorial Day Service (led by Candace Gerding along with other BBUUS Veterans)....and more!

# APRIL 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 7-8:15pm Gentle Yoga Classes Open Attendance	3	4	5
6 9:00am: Transition Program 10:30am: <b>Rev. Jack Ford</b> 12:00 Budget Info Meeting & Pledge Sunday after service! PR Committee Meeting 5:00 Pat & Jim's Wedding!	7	8	9 7pm Study Action Issues for General Assembly	10 Worship Committee 7pm @ Mowers'	11	12
13 9:00am: Transition Program 10:30am: <b>Dr. Mark Vickers</b> Parent Meeting after service	14	15	16 7-8:15pm Gentle Yoga Classes Open Attendance	17	18 FL District UUA Annual Assembly Gainesville, FL April 18 & 19	19 Earth Day Booth at the Landing 9am - 3pm
20 <i>Passover / Earth Day</i> 9:00am: Transition Program 10:30am: Sheila Harty	21	22 7pm Council Meeting @ Allstadt's	23 Noon: Lunch Bunch @ Gigi's 7-8:15pm Gentle Yoga Classes Open Attendance	24 7pm Caring Committee Meeting	25 <i>May Journey Deadline!</i>	26
27 9:00am: Transition Program 10:30am: <b>Elizabeth Teal</b> Social Action Meeting LRE Committee Meeting	28	29 7pm Board Meeting @ Mowers'	30 7-8:15pm Gentle Yoga Classes Open Attendance			

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## The Journey

*Newsletter of*  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society  
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