

# The Flaming Chalice

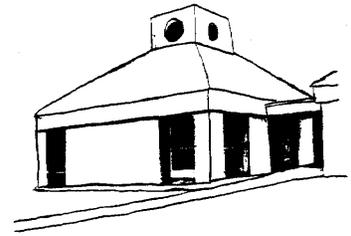
## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue  
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### What's going on... **November 2012**

Sun	Nov. 4	Return to EST 10:45 AM	<i>!Daylight Savings Time Ends!</i> Religious Education for children Service - "The Lost Art of Welcoming the Soul," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
W	Nov. 7	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing
	Nov.10-17		Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith - Houses of Grace annual event
Sun	Nov. 11	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "The Zen of Healing," Dr. Michael Stoltzfus Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	Nov. 12	11:00AM Noon	Break Bread delivery UU Church provide lunch at Habitat Faith Build site
Th	Nov. 15		<i>December newsletter deadline (Include first two weeks in January)</i>
F	Nov. 16	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie at the church
Sun	Nov. 18	10:45 AM  4:00 PM	Religious Education for children Service - "Tradition, Turkeys, and Theology: Our Unitarian Ancestry in the Pilgrims," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet <b>Community Thanksgiving Service</b> at Grace Fellowship Seventh Day Adventist Church
Th	Nov. 22		Thanksgiving Day
Sun	Nov. 25	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service -Guest at Your Table and Thanksgiving Love Feast, Dr. M. Elizabeth Derrick Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
F	Nov. 30	6:30 PM	Fire Pit and Games Night at the church

November... "What we would like to do is change the world — make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of workers, of the poor, of the destitute — the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor in other words — we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world." .....Dorothy Day

## Religious Education

**For Children:** The RE program for children under 15 years of age meets at 10:45 AM concurrent with the Sunday morning service. Older young people will remain with the adult service. Two adults are needed each Sunday to help with RE. Sign up on the weekly e-mail volunteer list or let Sue Bailey know if you can help on a given Sunday.



### “The Power of Myth” Class

#### After Sunday services on Fred Howard’s Sundays

Fred is facilitating a class on “The Power of Myth” using video from the popular PBS series of conversations between the mythologist Joseph Campbell and journalist Bill Moyers. The classes are held every time Fred is in charge of the worship service, usually the first and third Sundays. The classes begin after Meet and Greet and end promptly no later than 1 PM. Although you may come whenever you wish, Fred suggests that you attend regularly or purchase the companion book “The Power of Myth” and read along.



### Sangha Tuesdays

5:30-7:00 PM at the church

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group continues to meet on Tuesday evenings at the church. Everyone interested in Buddhist practice and meditation is welcome. The group shares tea from 5:30-6, sits and meditates (Buddhist shamata meditation) from 6-6:30, and discusses the reading from 6:30-7. If someone is unable to sit on the floor, it is perfectly alright to use a chair. Otherwise, people should supply their own pillow for sitting. The group shares books and the liturgy.



### MINISTERIAL MUUSINGS

November 2012

In September I was privileged to spend a few days at Murray Grove located near the coast of New Jersey where I attended the Christian Universalist Association Annual Conference. Murray Grove is heralded as the birthplace of Universalism in America. The rustic meetinghouse that once stood on this property was the site where John Murray, considered the founder of Universalism, was given the opportunity to preach the defining sermon of the Universalist movement. The chain of events that led to Murray preaching universalism from this pulpit is one of the few, if not the only, “miracle” stories of our faith tradition.

Briefly, the story goes something like this. John Murray was a down on his luck English Methodist who came to America in 1770 with hopes, like many people of that time, of putting economic difficulties behind him and making a fresh start. Once a passionate Calvinist in his theology, Murray developed an interest in the idea of Universalism because it offered welcome relief from the religious severity

of his Calvinist upbringing and the attendant psychological torment of its doctrine of hell and eternal damnation. But while the idea of universal salvation may have given Murray some inner peace, it made his outward life a living hell. It caused him to be ostracized by friends and clerical colleagues and to lose his position in the Methodist church and therefore spend time in debtor’s prison. This was Murray’s frame of mind and spirit when he set out for America, determined to put religious disputation forever behind him.

Murray was bound for New York, but the ship he was travelling on became grounded off the coast of New Jersey. Murray went ashore looking for food and ended up at the doorstep of a farmer named Thomas Potter. According to the legend, Potter asked Murray, “Are you the preacher I’ve been expecting who is to preach universal salvation from the pulpit of the meetinghouse I’ve built on my farm?” Potter had built a meetinghouse 10 years earlier for this expressed purpose. Potter had endured his own share of derision for this fanciful vision of holding his pulpit open for God to send him a preacher who shared such esoteric ideas.

Initially Murray refused the offer of the pulpit, hoping to get his supplies and be gone well before Sunday. But Potter, convinced that Murray was the preacher foretold to him, told Murray that God would not let his ship leave until he had preached universal salvation from his pulpit. Sunday was several days away and Murray felt relatively safe offering to preach if he was still there come Sunday. However, the winds did not change and Murray made good on his promise by entering the pulpit that Sunday and preaching his message proclaiming the universal love of God. Murray is often quoted as saying in that sermon, “Give them not hell, but hope and courage” and this has been the clarion call of Universalism ever since.

Today Murray Grove is a Unitarian Universalist retreat center. Part of its mission is to preserve the heritage of Universalism and to serve as a memorial to the life and labor of John Murray and Thomas Potter. While there, not only did I get to immerse myself in the history and the wonderful sense of place that Murray Grove’s natural setting offers, but I also had the opportunity to participate in the ordination ceremony of five new Universalist ministers. It was really something special to send them out into the world from the place where John Murray instituted his vision of universal love and acceptance.

Fred Howard is our part time minister. You may contact Rev. Howard by email (preferable) at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com). He is available for consultations on Monday and Wednesday afternoons on most weeks from 2-5PM by appointment. Fred welcomes any questions you may have about membership in our congregation. He is also available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

#### INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of our fellowship, we encourage you to talk with our minister, Rev. Fred Howard or our President, Carol Stiles, or Membership Director, Kimberly Tanner. We welcome your questions, and we extend an open invitation to all who want to join our liberal community of faith.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### ***In Memory of Frances Paterson***

Dr. Frances Paterson, retired VSU faculty, died early on October 25, 2012. She had only recently retired from the Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology in the VSU College of Education. Her health had been declining over recent weeks and she was moved by medical transport to Michigan this week to be closer to her daughters. Although she made the trip earlier in the week peacefully, her health continued to decline. She did have the opportunity though to meet her young grandson, something she very much wanted. Frances was an expert in educational law and has published several books on religion in the public schools. She is a former President of the VSU AAUP Chapter. Frances was a member of our UU community. Our Caring Committee along with Patricia and Dennis Marks, Jane Elza, and members of her VSU Department were there to offer assistance during her final days in Valdosta. We extend our condolences to her daughters and her grandson.

#### *Keep in your thoughts*

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing the lost of loved ones or dealing with health issues.

#### *You might like to know*

- ❖ Keith Johnson and Ann Marie Smith are doing well and say they miss everyone here. We certainly miss them! They are living in the Odessa/Midland, TX area, and are adjusting to being "Texans." Ann Marie has a position at University of Texas, Permian Basin. Keith is working part time teaching online classes for VSU and has just applied to graduate school to finish his counseling certification. They'll be returning to their house in Fernandina Beach for a few months in the summer, so they'll be coming back this way from time to time. We wish them well.

## **Social Action Activities**

### **Break Bread Together**

Our date for meal deliveries with the Break Bread Together program is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (and 5<sup>th</sup> when there is one) of each month. If you would like to help deliver meals beginning about 11:00 AM, please contact Frank or Rosie Asbury.

### **Building on Faith-Houses of Grace Build November 10-17**

This month Valdosta Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity is holding its annual Building on Faith - Houses of Grace event. (location to be announced soon.) Most everyone is familiar with Habitat and the work they do, but not everyone is aware of the ecumenical and interfaith perspective from which they operate. To quote their website, "We invite people of all races, religions and backgrounds to unite with us in our mission to eliminate substandard housing." "Although we are a Christian organization, we do not seek to convert our

volunteers or our homeowners. Around the world and in the United States, we serve those in need whomever they may be. We gratefully welcome help from all who want to join our fight to make simple, decent housing a matter of conscience." Fred Howard urges everyone in our congregation who can to participate in this wonderful event. There are so many benefits for everyone in and through Habitat builds. Working together on such a direct service type of project is a great way to team build. Participants gain a sense of satisfaction as they learn to work together and give some deserving family a tangible gift. Relationships established at a Habitat build become a source of goodwill for the larger communities where they take place. The sense of community at the builds can't be described, it must be experienced.

Just as our forebears promoted and sustained a depth of community in barn raisings and other acts of neighborly kindness, Habitat gives people in our day an occasion to rediscover that spirit as we build our way into a more inclusive future. Fred says, "I hope that you will be able to join us in this effort to build the beloved community." You don't have to have any special skills or construction experience to participate.

Bill and Valerie Webster are coordinating our churches participation again this year---our 4<sup>th</sup> year we think. They will be signing up volunteers to work anytime during the week. In addition our congregation will be providing lunch for those working on November 12 so watch for requests to help out with that event also.



### **Guest at Your Table**

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC and UU culture since 1975 when it first began. This annual tradition at UU churches fosters understanding and awareness of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) human-rights work. Most UU churches participate in this project during the holiday season from Thanksgiving through December. During our Sunday service the last Sunday in November, we will discuss some of the work of the UUSC and each family will be invited to take home a Guest at Your Table box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your "guests," and you are asked to share your blessings with them, making a contribution to the box at each meal during the holiday season. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the Stories of Hope booklets which we will also distribute at the service. We'll collect the boxes the first Sunday in January and mail our contributions to UUSC as a total from the church.

You'll find information on the box about how you can join the UUSC. Consider making a donation during the holidays sufficient to become a member. Many of our members are also members of this worthy organization. It is one way we, as individuals, can globally support our UU principles. By celebrating Guest at Your Table in our congregation we are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations."

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### CAROL STILES

This month I want to introduce our new website! You can find it at [www.uuvaldosta.net](http://www.uuvaldosta.net) – please bookmark this site, although our other domains ([uuvaldosta.org](http://uuvaldosta.org) and [uuvaldosta.com](http://uuvaldosta.com)) will forward to it. The new website is a product of several months' investigation, beginning with Lars Leader and Kat Nickola last year, and Christine Clay and Jam Jenkins, who helped out even after moving to Seattle. The new site is hosted on DreamHost, which is one of three sites recommended by the UUA, and is free to non-profits. Christine Clay designed the current layout and moved over most of the material. I have refined the menus, tabs, and links, and added new pages, including a "Questions" page. It is still a work-in-progress as we update the history and "About Us" section – watch for more changes!

The newsletter archives will continue to be hosted on Yahoo for the time being, but the DreamHost site offers easier updating through WordPress, the capacity for multiple editors, uploading files by FTP, discussion forums via blogs, and other features.

The website is one of many communication avenues with our members and friends and with the larger community. The members of our communications team include the vitally important functions of our newsletter editor, Betty Derrick, Facebook moderator, Kimberly Tanner, and local publicity, Dee Tait. My thanks to each of you!

In community,  
Carol

P.S. If you are not receiving announcements from our Yahoo e-mail list, please let me know! It is a low-volume, moderated list for announcements and reminders.

## UU Valdosta Caring Committee

The newly formed Caring Committee for our congregation met briefly prior to the September board meeting. Members include Dee Tait, chair, Kimberly Tanner, Betty Derrick, and David Rodgers. At this meeting the group discussed what kinds of things the committee could do, with the help of the congregation. The committee developed the following mission statement: "The Caring Committee will coordinate short-term needs in healthcare crises and other family emergencies, which cannot be met through public assistance, for members and friends of UU Valdosta."

The Caring Committee will be asking for volunteers to assist as these emergencies arise. Contact Dee Tait if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee. The group has already been involved assisting several in our congregational community recently.

## Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Betty Derrick

Website Manager: Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

November 15: **Deadline for December and first 2 weeks in January** newsletter.

*If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.*

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For layleading services:** Betty Derrick, Dee Tait, Doug Tanner, Amy Wells, Lars Leader, Valerie Webster

**For speaking at Sunday services:** Melanie Hubbard, Kimberly Tanner

**For Sunday Service music:** Doug Tanner, Amy Wells, Lars Leader

**For Stories for All Ages:** Sue Bailey, Fred Howard, Amy Wells

**For helping with Children's RE:** Sue Bailey, Kimberly Tanner, Rosie Asbury, Teagan Dunn, and Emma Bailey for helping in RE.

**For serving as Meet and Greet Hosts:** Doug Tanner, Dee Tait, Betty Derrick, Valerie Webster, Raynae Williams

**For greeting visitors:** Kimberly Tanner, Carol Stiles, Betty Derrick

**For flowers for Sunday services:** Valerie Webster, Betty Derrick, Dee Tait

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** Frank and Rosie Asbury,

**For cleaning the church:** Frank Asbury, Lars Leader

**For sweeping the sidewalk:** Doug Tanner, Mitch Tait, Zachary Williams

**For helping clear the new parking area in October:** Jim Ingram, Fred Howard, Doug Tanner, Lars Leader, David Rodgers

**For providing assistance to Frances Paterson in October:** Dee Tait, Lars Leader, Betty Derrick, Mitch Tait, along with Dennis and Patricia Marks, Jane Elza and several of Frances' VSU colleagues.

## Notes from Kids' RE - Sue Bailey

Fall is here and the RE kids have been exploring the season with autumn crafts and activities. We will continue to tie together our fall lessons and our UU principles as we learn about the many ways people celebrate and enjoy this time of year. We learned about several holidays and events that happen during harvest time, read stories, and made several autumn leaf projects and fun and spirited Halloween crafts. We are looking forward to continuing our exploration of fall holidays in November. We'll learn about some we know well such as Thanksgiving, and others, like Diwali, that we may never have heard about before. As always, we welcome visitors and helpers in Kids' RE. Please see Sue Bailey to volunteer.



Zaylee Covert and Martin Pappas holding their autumn artwork.

## Let's Have Some Fun!!

### PIZZA AND A MOVIE

**Friday, November 16 6: 30 PM at the church**

By popular demand we will show the second part of the film series "Long Strange Trip," a production by Unitarian Universalists about our Unitarian and Universalist Roots. This film chronicles those who carried on Servetus' message after his martyrdom, primarily Faustus Socinus and Georgio Biandrata, and how they carried his message forward to religious liberals in Poland and Transylvania. It discusses how the thoughts of Servetus, Socinus, Biandrata, and others came together in the mind of Francis David in Transylvania and led to the formation of the first coherent Unitarian theology. It tracks that theology through the rise of liberal religion in Poland and later throughout Europe. There is enough introductory information in the video to view it independently of part one so if you weren't there for the part one, don't let that keep you from coming. A \$5 contribution toward pizza and drinks is suggested. Contact: Fred Howard and David L. Rodgers.

### Fire Pit and Games Night

**Friday, November 30 6:30PM - until at the church**

Please note that, because of Thanksgiving, this event is scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of this month! Bring your favorite beverage, something to grill over the fire, and a snack to share. Often we play Mexican Train (dominoes), but we enjoy learning new games. If you have a game that is not limited to small numbers of players, please bring it along! Contact: Susan Bailey.

**BOOK DISCUSSION AND POTLUCK:** Mark your calendar for January 11, 2013 when the next book discussion will be held. The book is "Dreaming in Hindi" by Katherine Russell Rich. It is the story of a year she spent in India learning Hindi, but it is more than that. There are wonderful insights into the culture of India as well as interesting insights into linguistics research as it relates to adults learning a second language. Knowing she was suffering from cancer before she left on this adventure, in some ways her year in India was an escape. Her doctors allowed the trip with the understanding that she would continue her treatments. We have been selecting books that deal with difference. Contact: Betty Derrick.

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News October 3 2012

(Note that some matters appear in articles and announcements elsewhere in this newsletter and are not repeated here. The full minutes are posted on the RE wing bulletin board after approval by the board.)

- Parking and lighting: a work group was set up for Oct. 6 to clear the new parking area of vegetation and debris and layout the locations of two new lights.
- Share-the-Plate organizations: November, the Guest at Your Table collection begins and continues through early January; January – The Haven, February – South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness.
- Voted to contribute \$100, in addition to the October Share-the-Plate collection, to Habitat for Humanity.
- Made plans to participate in the Azalea Festival, March 9-10, 2013.
- Bench sign on Norman Drive is fading and will be replaced with the new design (like the one at Patterson and Woodrow Wilson).
- Next meeting, Wednesday, November 7, 6:00 p.m

### Treasurer's Report – Rosie Asbury

September 30, 2012

Receipts	September	July -present (3 mos.)
Plate	\$ 118.00	\$ 377.47
Pledge	1140.00	4620.00
Rent	140.00	480.00
Share the Plate(Hungry at Home)		
	<u>153.00</u>	<u>402.28</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 1551.47	\$ 5879.75
Disbursements		
Speakers' Fees	200.00	600.00
Minister Exp.	1108.16	1458.16
Maintenance	129.00	188.50
Pest Control	35.00	105.00
Supplies	0.00	24.15
Utilities	296.04	912.59
RE Program	0.00	10.59
Advertising	0.00	700.00
UUA Dues	0.00	424.00
Donations (Hungry at Home)		
	153.00	402.28
Others	<u>0.00</u>	<u>86.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 1921.20	\$ 4911.27
Net Receipt	\$ -370.20	\$ 968.48

## At the Church-in-the-Woods

**New Hope Christian Community Church-** Sunday evenings: Choir practice at 4:30 PM. Service at 6:00 PM.  
<http://www.wix.com/nhccc1/nhccc>

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday: Beginners Class 7-8 PM; Continuing Class 5:30-7 PM. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin.

**PFLAG Meeting** – 4th Tuesday each month, 7:00PM  
Contact: Doug Tanner The web page for PFLAG Valdosta:  
<http://community.pflag.org/Valdosta>



## UU Activities and Announcements

*November 3- Florida District Workshop: Diversity and Harmony, UU Fellowship of Marion County, Summerfield, FL*



### UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

November 2012

[jlund@uaa.org](mailto:jlund@uaa.org)

During the years of my being a UUA Trustee the Florida District Chalice Lighter's Program has never been the monthly column topic. One reader thankfully suggested I write about Chalice Lighters (CL), personally to me a subject near and dear to my heart. I was the chair of this program for several years...years ago, and hope this program will continue to succeed and grow in our District.

In the early 1980s, an idea was put forth that UUs might be willing to contribute the small amount of \$10 (or more), up to three times per year to help a congregation in their district complete a special project linked to growth. Prairie Star was the first District to implement the program but Florida soon followed suit in 1987. One of our UUA districts raises \$100,000 annually from 3,500 individual CLs. This district also has a CL Sunday every other year and is known for gaining 500 to 1,000 new participants each time. For many congregations CLs help put them "over the top" in calling a minister or buying land or helping pay for a building.

Since its inception in the Florida District, there have been countless requests and many funds given to assist our congregations, too many to cite. In the Florida District CL money may be sought for: **obtaining, expanding or furnishing a new building, to underwrite the hiring of a first-time religious professional, to encourage the formation of a new UU congregation, and to supplement creative growth projects.** A Florida District congregation who wishes to receive CL funds must fill out an application, found at the Florida District website ([www.floridadistrict.org](http://www.floridadistrict.org)). The District Executive, in consultation with the District's CL Grants Panel, reviews all applications and determines when a

CL call request will be granted. Individuals who wish to become CLs may contact the Florida District Office ([uufld@gmail.com](mailto:uufld@gmail.com) or 407-894-2119) for information.

If you are not a Florida District CL **please** consider becoming a member of this worthy program. During a CLs "call" at this time the suggested contribution amount at this time, is \$25. May you enjoy a blessed, thankful, peaceful, Thanksgiving Holiday.

## Notes by Rev. Kenn Hurto, Executive Lead for the Southern Region, and Connie Goodbread, Congregational Life Consultant

We know it is not news to you that changes are happening within our Association and Districts. After several years of planning, Florida, Mid-South, Southeast, & Southwest Districts have begun initiating steps toward unifying our identity and working as the "UUA Southern Region." Our four governing Boards have reduced their size, approved cost and income sharing, and authorized staff to work as a team across District boundaries. With the 2013-14 fiscal year, we will begin a new funding structure that will replace the way congregations now pay our UUA "Annual Program Fund" and District Fair Share. We will be changing from the per member assessment to a single "Ask" based on a percentage of congregational budgets (more detail on that in weeks to come).

In keeping with these changes, with this issue, we close our individual District newsletters. Our plan is to launch a Regional newsletter on October 15th. This will be sent to all who are interested, in each of our 232 congregations across our 13 states. Over the last few years, our editorial goal has been to bring news to congregational leaders about area events and resources to further their leadership and ministry. We will continue to do that in our expanded focus as well.

Other changes: We've reduced four administrative offices into two. The Regional Office is in Orlando, staffed by Jessica Curren. The second office is in Charlotte, NC staffed by the Rev. Glenn Johnson. In addition Kathy Charles, who lives in Houston, is our logistics expert and we have hired a company to unify our bookkeeping throughout the Region.

The UUA field staff are now referred to as "Congregational Life Consultants," doing away with the old "District Executive" and "Program Consultant" distinctions. Connie is one of our Congregational Life Consultants. We have four staff portfolios; Faith and Leadership Development, Connie Goodbread and Jennifer Nichols, Administration and Stewardship, Rev. Susan Smith, Transitions, Rev. Kenn Hurto and Evangelism/Growth, Rev. Sue Sinnamon. Coincidentally, our colleague, Annette Marquis of the Southeast District, is moving to a new position as the "LGBTQ & Multi-cultural Ministries Program Manager" for our UUA. This change prompted a review of our staffing plan; the good news is that we have found opportunity to increase from 6.5 full-time staff to 8, beginning January 1. This is made possible with a bit of an additional financial stretch by our UUA. We are delighted to have this additional staff to better serve our congregations. (We are now in the midst of seeking two talented people for those positions; see [uaa.org/careers](http://uaa.org/careers) if you are interested.)

In addition to providing direct service to our congregations as before, Kenn's duties now include working as the "Lead Executive" for the four Boards and directing the

work of our staff group, affectionally known by our nickname, the "HallelUUjah" team. Kenn is also the "go to" person for congregations in the midst of professional leadership transitions.

A brochure describing these changes will be in the mail to our congregations in the next few weeks. We are mindful that change is often disruptive. However, our goal is to make these transitions go smoothly with no disruption of support to our congregations. Of course, congregational leaders may continue to call upon Kenn and Connie as well as any of the Southern Regional staff. Please feel free to call or write if we can address any concern you may have.

**2012-2013 UUA Common Read Announced: Possibility for future book discussion(?) - *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.** In this remarkable book, civil rights advocate and litigator Michelle Alexander asserts that crime-fighting policies and systems in the U.S., such as the "war on drugs" and the incarceration system disproportionately and intentionally affect Americans of color. She describes multifaceted, lifelong discrimination and disenfranchisement that affect people who are branded "felon."