



Worship

FULL SUNDAY SERVICES WILL RESUME IN THE FALL

**“Summer Gatherings” over the summer!
June schedule inside this newsletter**

For Information on SUMMER GATHERINGS PLEASE,
please refer to our Weekly Eletters and Monthly Newsletter



News & Notes

Hello, everyone ...

I saw a nice essay in a UU book put together by Elizabeth Montgomery called "100 Meditations". This story is called "A Baptism" by Rev Robert R. Walsh published in 1992 in a book *Noisy Stones*. Here goes:

She called to ask if I would baptize her infant son.

I said our ceremony is like a baptism, but not exactly ... and we normally do it for people who are already part of the church family. And I said the next one is scheduled for May. She said "Could we come to talk with you about it, anyway?"

They came to see me ... the very young woman and her child, and the child's very young father. She explained that the child had been born with a heart defect, and he needed to have a risky heart operation soon. She had asked her own clergyman if he would baptize her son, but he refused because she was not married to the baby's father.

I told them that being unmarried would not be an impediment to anything we might do. But, I explained that our "child dedication ceremony" still might not be what they were hoping for, because:

- (1) Our ceremony does not wash away any sin.
- (2) Our ceremony does not guarantee the child a place in heaven.
- (3) Our ceremony doesn't even make the child a member of the church.
- (4) In fact, our ceremony doesn't change the child at all. We expect it will change *the rest of us* in our relationship with the child, and perhaps with all children.

She listened patiently. Then she said "**All I want to know is that a Greater Spirit blesses my baby.**" I gasped at the sudden clarity. With a catch in my throat, I said "We can do that." And we did.

I'm no religious scholar, but I know what I like. I've heard UU described as a "non-PROPHET" organization. In the story above, I imagine the young mother was turned-away by a "for-PROPHET" organization, because they have rules, you know. I think we have heart, instead.

Another one of the 100-meditations is from Euripides (Athenian poet and playwright) who talks about Prophets.

- It's easier to pay homage to prophets than to heed their vision.
- It's easier to venerate saints than to heed their human qualities.
- It's easier to glorify heroes than to live by their examples.
- It's easier to make earth-gods of the wise than to learn from their wisdom.
- Great leaders are honored when others share their insights and values.
- The grandchildren of those who stoned the prophet sometimes gather-up the stones later to build the prophet's monument.

According to Wikipedia (!), Euripides was a contemporary of Socrates and both were criticized as "decadent intellectuals". Socrates was eventually put on trial and executed as a corrupting influence. Euripides chose a voluntarily exile in his old age. It's risky to be a prophet, often misunderstood and unappreciated! And it's sometimes hard to be a UU ... so many pathways to choose from, and only your conscience to guide you! Maybe OIF can help!

Jim Smith, President OIF

Our in-season, regular programming will end with the full service on Sunday, 28 May. Then we begin our “Summer Gatherings” period (like last year) where we scale-back, recharge batteries, enjoy the company of the few KW year-rounders and do a little planning for the coming fall-winter-spring.

Basically the algorithm is this:

- (1) 1st Sunday each month: Off-site visit to a local attraction.
- (2) 2nd and 4th Sunday each month: Off-entirely ... zip, zilch, nada. Enjoy!
- (3) 3rd Sunday each month: Meeting at OIF (topic in advance, everyone welcome to join)
- (4) What could possibly go wrong?
 - a. July has 5 Sundays! Who knew? July’s 5th Sunday will be off-entirely, like #2 and #4.
 - b. In Sept, we might get antsy about the upcoming “season”. But, we will deal with it!

The diagram below will show the JUNE calendar for “Summer Gatherings”. We will use this newsletter and bulletin-board/website to get every next month’s schedule out for public consumption beforehand. Any OIF members or friends (or visitors, guests) are welcome to participate with us!

Sunday:	Topic:
4 June	<u>KW Botanical Garden</u> (Stock Island) ... meet there at 11:00 AM, free entry with local ID. Bring a sandwich or picnic for lunch/snack in the courtyard!
11 June	<u>Free Sunday!</u>
18 June	<u>Meeting at 801 Georgia:</u> “Random Acts of Kindness” ... intergenerational.
25 June	<u>Free Sunday!</u>

Other June events to note:

- (1) 11 June: Key West Pride Parade from 5:00-to-6:00 PM.
- (2) 17 June: FL Keys United Way “Poverty Simulation” at Marathon City Hall 9:00 AM-to-1:00 PM.
- (3) 21-25 June: UUA General Assembly in New Orleans, LA.

Mucho thanx to our OIF Programs Committee for the Summer Gatherings planning!

Jim Smith, President OIF

MEMBERSHIP NEWS- We would like to introduce you to the newest member of One Island Family. Sanling Ran signed the membership book this month.

SANLING RAN grew up in Chongqing, China, and graduated from college in China with a degree in engineering. Working as an engineer, she operated her own import/export business. She also has been an airplane program manager. She is currently enrolled in the Florida Keys Community College studying English and learning new skills. Sanling is a certified yoga instructor who enjoys yoga, pilates and dance. Her interests include arts and culture, both Eastern and Western. She has a daughter living and working in Singapore.

One Island Family welcomes and recognizes Sanling for her remarkable program last summer featuring World Heritage Site Gardens of China, for her frequent help with One Island Family hospitality, and for her warm and friendly presence in our congregation. Be sure to welcome her when you see her!

COOKING WITH LOVE- the food distribution program run by our friends at Metropolitan Community Church (1215 Petronia Street) needs our help during this season while many of their members are out of town! If you can help any Saturday, from about 10 am- 12 noon, please call Cherre Marchak at (305) 293-6097 by mid-week. That's when she makes out the schedule for the volunteers who assemble and deliver the hot meal to about 150 households on Saturday. Volunteering is easy because it's so well organized, fun because of the caring people who are dedicated to this program, and satisfying because you feel so appreciated by the folks who receive the meal. (Tell Cherre that Marilyn Smith sent you!!)

We strive to be a fragrance free and smoke free environment in respect for people who have allergies.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available at the rear of the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make a cash contribution of record.

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Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>