



**TUPELO GROUP:** The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo meets the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. in Temple B'Nai Israel, 1301 Marshall Street. Visitors are welcome. Check out our website, <http://www.UUTupelo.org>

>>>>>> **BOARD ELECTIONS** <<<<<<<

At the Annual UUCO Congregational meeting held on April 15, 2007, we elected the UUCO board for 2007-2008 and we voted as a congregation to continue meeting through the summer.

Please join me in thanking the outgoing UUCO Board members (John Schuster, Luanne Buchanan, Ken Sleeper & Pat Miller) and in welcoming new members (Susie Adams, Hans Sinha, Shanna Flaschka and Luanne Buchanan in her new role!)

Board members 2006-2007

Gail Stratton, President  
Larry Shaffer, Vice President  
David Smith, Financial Officer  
Luanne Buchanan, Secretary  
Ken Sleeper, Religious Education & Youth Trustee  
John Schuster, Communications Trustee  
Sharon Walls, Sunday Service Programming Trustee  
Pat Miller, Membership Trustee

Board members 2007-2008

Gail Stratton, President  
Larry Shaffer, Vice President  
David Smith, Financial Officer  
Susie Adams, Secretary  
Hans Sinha, Religious Education & Youth Trustee  
Luanne Buchanan, Communications Trustee  
Sharon Walls, Sunday Service Programming Trustee  
Shanna Flaschka, Membership Trustee

>>>>>> **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE** <<<<<<

From Gail Stratton, President of UUCO

**“We are better together”**

Certainly, at UUCO, we are better together. As a congregation we are much more than any one individual. As a group of people working together

we have had a full year of rich and interesting services and of programs such as our Youth Talent Show and our 10-year Celebration of being affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. This last year, we have also been intentional about giving as a congregation both through special offerings and through a board initiative to quarterly give to an organization or a family. It has been a great year and I thank everyone for being part of it.

“We are better together” also works on a bigger scale, as our congregation is associated with other UU Congregations in the Mid- South District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We join with others to celebrate our unabashedly liberal tradition as well as to get ideas for services and insight into how to grow deeper. On May 4-6, Pat Miller, Sharon Walls and I attended the Mid-south District Annual Assembly at the UU Fellowship of Montgomery Alabama. The theme of this Assembly, “Gratitude and Generosity,” was reflected in breakout sessions (“Amazing generosity graces us all” by Rhonda Thomason from the Southern Poverty Law Center; “Best practices for building financial abundance in your congregation” by Rev. Terry Sweetser; “Being generous with our message” by Rev. Rhett Baird; “Gratitude and Generosity are good for the soul” by Arlen Goff) as well as in the keynote address by Rev. Terry Sweetser on “From Scarcity to Abundance: the Journey to Living Fully.”

I learned that it is incredibly freeing to move from a mindset of scarcity to a mindset of abundance; that in giving both individuals and congregations receive much in return and that many, many people, like myself are looking for avenues to give. In giving we become connected to a bigger whole and become more whole in ourselves.

Other highlights of the conference included the “Service of the Lively Tradition” (a wonderful and musically rich opening service where each congregation in the Mid-South District reported on their good news from this last year), a reporting of an extensive survey about the Mid-South District Youth ministry and a tour of the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery. Please see me if you are interested in more information on this conference or if you are interested in attending next

years conferences!

For 2007-2008 the Mid-South District Theme is “  
A Principled Life; what does it mean to live  
Unitarian Universalism?”

**Here are the conferences next year:**

Health Congregations Conference  
UU Congregation of Gwinnett  
Lawrenceville, GA,  
Oct. 6, 2007

Annual Assembly  
UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast  
Valparaiso FL  
May 2-4, 2008

**>>>>> ANNOUNCEMENTS <<<<<<**

Native Plant Society Chapter forming in  
Oxford/Lafayette County! Upset about the loss of  
tree canopy in our communities? Want to plant  
something other than a crape myrtle? Don't want to  
see another invasive species leave our birds and  
wildlife without suitable habitat? Join us in  
promoting native plants in the city landscape and  
everywhere. The East Central chapter of the  
Mississippi Native Plant Society invites you to join,  
for only \$1. Email [nan.n.johnson@olemiss.edu](mailto:nan.n.johnson@olemiss.edu) or  
call Nan at 662-473-4559 for more info and update  
as to first meetings and field trips.

Editor's note: There may or may not be July and/or August newsletters. This will depend on receipt of  
newsworthy information. If none is received, then there will not be a newsletter and this one will serve as  
a full Summer newsletter.

Additionally, we will be making the transition to our new Communications Trustee, Luanne Buchanan, who  
will serve as the newsletter editor beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity.

May all have a happy and healthy Summer,  
John Schuster