

*Robert J. Hansman*

*The Dolphin Landing 1648 Casey Key Drive*

*Punta Gorda, FL 33950*

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*Fax 941 575 8380*

**May 10, 1999**

**Dear Sam,**

**Well, more than half a decade since we had a little party for you at our home and George stood up and said something profound. It has been a time I value. I will miss our productive personal interchanges and your sermons. It is a measure of one's friendships how the experiences and ideas that they embraced continue to filter into one's thoughts. Yours have been significant and I treasure them.**

**Sadly we will miss the party that offers the congregation our chance to thank you, wish you good bye and all the best for the next stage in your life and career. We join that thought and wish you Phil and Andy all the best in the next act of the drama..**

**Regards,**





**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

September 27, 2001

Reverend Sam Trumbore  
First Unitarian Universalist Society  
405 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222

Dear Reverend Trumbore:

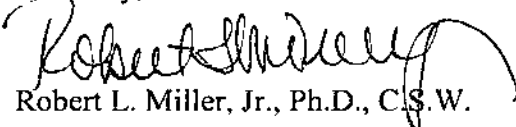
This letter is to thank you for your words of comfort during the midday prayer service for the air disasters of September 11, 2001. Like most people, I was in deep shock and near despair. After spending many hours glued to the television, I was very saddened by the lack spiritual and religious coverage. I was fortunate to watch the PBS special with Bill Moyer and Rev. Dr. James Forbes of Riverside Church in New York City. However, the morning of the prayer service I was unsettled by the comments of Jerry Falwell, Franklyn Graham and others who either pointed fingers or simply struggled with knowing what to say. One commentator painfully said, "everything has changed." When I heard that message, I knew something was wrong.

I realized I was waiting for other people to lead to me to a deeper awareness of the relationship I share with my Creator. I also realized that I needed to take ownership of my feelings. However, I was also aware that I still yearned for a word of comfort from someone who has studied the scriptures and understood themselves to be compassionate people.

The story you shared regarding the man you visited earlier that day, who wanted to send "them all back where they came from" was timely. Your response to him felt reasonable and pastoral. I was most moved by your scripture reference to Psalm 46. So, just incase no one has told you, your prayerful reflection was helpful to me and I have referred to it often during the last weeks.

As an assistant professor in social work, I teach a clinical course for advanced students in the area of mental health, spirituality and social work. I tend to think I live my commitment to social justice and spirituality in an integrated way. Attending the service on Friday was both an affirmation of my commitment and a gift to my spirit. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Miller, Jr., Ph.D., C.S.W.

Sam - Here's  
what I submitted to  
Dave Munro.  
Good job this year!  
Theresa

April 2002

In response to the Personnel Committee/Committee on Professional Ministry's request for input on the performance of FUUSA staff members, I am submitting these remarks about Rev. Sam Trumbore. During the past year, I have come to know Sam in the following capacities:

### **1) ARISE**

Sam worked very, very hard for ARISE as President of that organization. I helped him to assemble a membership database and to send out mailings every month. I know firsthand how much work he put into the database and how much work he put into his monthly letters. I know firsthand how patient and steady he was, despite enormous pressures. He always kept his cool even though I lost my cool several times. He kept his eyes on the prize.

Sam is remaining steadily faithful to his beliefs as he accepts the nomination for a second term as President of ARISE. He is putting his faith into action.

In addition, since I am now considering accepting an offer to sit on a local non-profit organization Board, I asked Sam if I could "pick his brain" during a one-on-one interview. He kindly obliged and shared with me much of what he learned as President of ARISE. I will use him in the future as a "mentor" resource. I appreciate the depth and breadth of his knowledge and experience.

### **2) CARING NETWORK**

As "Business Coordinator" of the Caring Network, I know firsthand that Rev. Sam made several hospital or home visits during the past year to comfort sick or dying or grieving individuals. He took time out of his very busy schedule to visit the following people: Mildred Guffin (several times), Abby Jones, Hilda Dunne, Anita Patka, Bill Webb. Probably many more that I don't know about.

Mildred Guffin told me that she found Rev. Sam to be "charming and adorable" (of course, he was 50 years younger than she was!!).

In addition, I appreciate that Sam is so knowledgeable about computers. He set up a group e-mail address for the Caring Network which makes communication much easier!

Sam and I were able to work out a difference of opinion about one Caring Network matter (a social work intern). I appreciate that Sam was able to discuss the matter with me calmly, openly, and honestly. I appreciate that we were able to resolve the problem.

We miss Sam at our meetings, but I know he's a very busy man with many other obligations.

### **3) RELIGIOUS SERVICES COMMITTEE**

I keep missing the meetings because I'm too busy with many other obligations! So I can't say yet how Sam is on this committee. I just joined myself this year.

#### **4) BUILD YOUR OWN THEOLOGY (Adult Ed course)**

I took this course in spring 2002, led by Rev. Sam. I really enjoyed the course because it forced me to think hard about my beliefs and to write them down once and for all. I now have a written statement of "CREDO" which articulates my deepest convictions.

As far as I understand it, the BYOT course is a "package deal" which just needs a facilitator to deliver to the participants. In other words, Sam didn't actually "create" this course. Nevertheless, it cannot be offered unless someone steps forward to devote the time to deliver it to the participants. I appreciate that Sam took the time to do that.

Several other people attended the course as well. Much of the value of this course comes from the group sharing. I appreciate that Sam shared his own beliefs with us, but never imposed his own beliefs upon us, nor did he ever belittle the opinions expressed by others.

#### **5) PASTORAL COUNSELING**

Rev. Sam helped me through a difficult period this year by offering long-winded, supportive e-mail counseling. I thank him for the great amount of time that he took with this.

At one point, he also scheduled a full hour meeting with me. I thank him for this free "office appointment." (It's probably worth about \$100, no?).

#### **6) SERMONS and COLUMNS**

I enjoy Sam's Sunday sermons as well as his written columns in "Windows." I always find something relevant to my life. I find them easy to understand. In these troubled times, the basic core messages of The Good and Healthy Life need to be stated and interpreted over and over and over again. Thanks to Sam for doing that.

#### **7) "SOULFUL SUNDOWN" Grant Application**

Rev. Sam was very easy to work with as we submitted a "Poets & Writers" grant application to find extra funds for the April "Souful Sundown" event. Sam kindly reviewed my grant application and offered very helpful suggestions for improvements.

#### **8) OTHER**

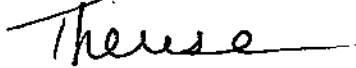
By coincidence only, one of my acquaintances was telling me about her experiences in the TRAC (I guess it's "Tackling Racism in Albany County") organization. Without knowing that I belonged to FUUSA, she began describing one of the ministers on her committee. She described him as "calm and courteous." She said his name was Sam. I can only assume that there are very few ministers named Sam who belong to TRAC. So I was glad that Rev. Sam had made such a good public impression upon my friend.

**SUMMARY**

In summary, I find Rev. Sam to be a inspiring as an individual who knows his core values and tries very hard to live them. I find him to be active, experienced and knowledgeable in his profession. I'm amazed at all that he gets done. I believe he is a tribute to FUUSA and to UUism.

Feel free to contact me to discuss further any of the preceding remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Therese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Therese L. Broderick

482-2639

theresebroderick@yahoo.com

March 23, 2003

Dear Sam,

Thank you for your sensitive and supportive note about my step daughter Emily's death.

It means a great deal to me (because I am spending part of my year in Santa Fe) to feel so well connected with my "home" VV's.

Arlen Westbrook

June 2, 2005  
Dear Reverend Tom and Congregation,

I am so pleased that Theresa found FWUSA. She tells me how wonderful and friendly the congregation is. When I visited I sensed the same feeling of beauty and caring.

Theresa especially enjoyed being in the choir. When she was living at home she would play records and tapes and sing along. Singing made her relax and happy. I'm so glad the choir accepted her.

I wish to thank you for a recent help and message. May I add a special thank you for visiting her in jail. She is so lonely and troubled.

I want to thank everyone who made her feel welcome and special.

I wish to thank those who helped move some of her possessions from her apartment to FWUSA for the rummage sale.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Marie and Luigi  
PASQUALE

M. Suzanne Hicks, ACSW

Robinson Square  
323 Hamilton Street  
Albany, New York 12210  
(518) 449-5539

Sunday

Hi Sam -

I so appreciated your  
sermon this morning. Interestingly,  
I was reading Bill the enclosed  
article on the way into  
Albany -

Thought you might  
appreciate it.

Thankfully,

Suzanne



107 Cardinal Ave  
Albany NY 12209  
March 14, 2004

intervention and the  
decisions one has to make  
the end of life.

Dear Reverend Tumbore

Quite by accident I  
found myself in your  
congregation today. A friend  
and member of the madrigal  
singers prevailed upon me  
to attend the service.

The was chimney's vision  
I got there to find the  
sermon topic on the right  
to die.

In the past ten months  
both my husband and  
mother passed away. Both  
deaths involved medical

Far from being upsetted  
I found the service to be  
a time of calm and reflection.

The benediction was  
especially meaningful in  
thinking about my husband.

One never knows what  
one will find when you  
go to church but, this time  
I found a treasure in your  
service.

Sincerely  
Holly Montgomery

CC: COPM  
Antism Committee

May 2, 2015

Re: personnel - Barbara Manning from B. Dietz

My contacts with our staff have been POSITIVE to the nth degree. Amy is unfailingly cheerful, constructive, creative, and welcoming. Central headquarters is in good hands while she is there.

Dave seems to do a super job maintaining the facility, keeping our public face sparkling. He is also calm, collected, and very helpful (when asked) on Sunday mornings. His is a steady presence.

I think Sam is doing very well. The sermons show creative variety. I am impressed by the gracious way he handled the challenges and outrage which arose after his Earth warming presentation. Others we have known would have been defensive - even nasty. But Sam went to some lengths to prove himself wrong. His open and candid manner is very refreshing and helpful to maintaining an open society here.

4706 Cap Rock Drive  
Austin TX 78735  
September 7, 2000

Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore  
c/o First UU Society of Albany  
405 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206

Dear Rev. Trumbore,

Please notify me at ppore@inetport.com when you  
upload your sermons.

Last week I, as the President of the UU Fellowship of  
Austin, conducted our first Ingathering / Water Ceremony.  
I read your "Ingathering Meditation" to our small group  
and gave you full credit. Your words were  
perfect and inspirational.

Sincerely,

Pat Pore  
President, UU Fellowship of Austin

CC: COPM  
Antoinette

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Wed 5/22/02

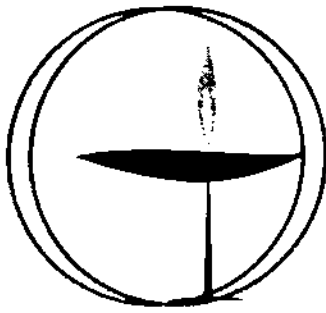
Sam -

A beautifully  
sensitive sermon on  
the mentally ~~ill~~ ill!  
Definitely shows that  
you have "the depth  
of emotional expression ...  
[you are] worthy to be [Randy's]  
minister" - to quote  
from your sermon!

Best,

Rosmary Abelord

(Still plan to talk to you one  
of these days!!)



# The New Outlook

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

1532 Forrest Nelson Boulevard  
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

## *President's Review:*

### **Board Nears Decisions on Interim Minister; Completes Search Committee**

The Board mailed informational packets to several candidates for our Interim Minister position, and has begun narrowing down and interviewing those who have shown an interest in serving our Fellowship. The selection process is winding down and the Board hopes mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made with our first choice candidate soon.

We will owe a large debt of gratitude to those who served on this hard-working committee. Because several of its original members left for their northern homes, the committee was reconstituted in midstream. Joining me on this committee were **Phyllis Lincoln**, an original member, plus **Mitt Austin**, **Anne Burton**, **Elaine Head** and **Cliff Meacham**.

The Search Committee for a new Settled Minister is finally complete. You will recall that **Nancy Johnson**, **Bob Norton**, **Roy Sinclair** and **Bill Wharton** were elected to this Search Committee at the congregation's annual meeting on March 28. Since then, your Board has been consulting members in an effort to fill the three additional positions. Unfortunately, only two people have agreed to serve—**Wilda Gige** and **Elaine Head**.

Therefore, these six members will constitute the Search Committee. By the time this newsletter is published, they will have their first organizational meeting and, hopefully, will have chosen a chairperson and vice-chairperson. (continued on page 3)

## *Minister's Closing Words*

My ministerial service with you is coming to an end this month. On June 28, I'll watch the movers load the truck and then I'll leave a day to two later. We haven't settled on a place to live in Albany as of this writing. Philomena, Andy and I will drive north at the end of May to start looking for a place to rent. I'll return to Florida June 10 to complete my work here, including the last two sermons. I've been working hard with the Worship Committee to put together some great summer services. Hopefully, when September rolls around, an interim minister will be ready to take over.

I'm finding it hard to let go of this congregation. Leaving is more difficult because I feel so much of what I have been pushing for is finally starting to take shape. The crisis of my leaving, along with the skillful work of Joe and Ann Batal, has helped the congregation face itself and make some important growth decisions. The renewal process has lifted the congregation and I want to see that continue. While I have faith in the Board to carry forward the wishes voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting, having that interim minister here will really help keep things moving.

I end my ministry with you, grateful for all that you have given me. You have supported me for six years as a light of liberal religion within the Fellowship and in Charlotte County. I have grown in my speaking, teaching and pastoral skills. I've taken to heart all of the suggestions, critiques, appreciation and support you have offered. My sense of the ministry has matured with each crisis solved and opportunity realized. Openness to the incredible freedom ministry offers and insightful awareness of the edges of people's boundaries really takes time to cultivate.

When I came here, I was a software engineer who wanted to become a minister. Our work together and my call to Albany has confirmed that transition.

This came home to me as I decided to dispose of some of my computer books and hardware from my consulting days rather than pack them. Your recognition and appreciation of the spirit in my words and actions have been my confirmation.

This has been a long goodbye. Thankfully, I've been able to personally say goodbye to many of our seasonal residents. The congregation has had the time to make a smooth transition to new leadership. I've been able to remain in the background as a coach, sharing my knowledge and experience of the settlement process but not interfering. I sincerely hope an experienced interim minister will have been selected by my final day.

As your first full-time settled minister, I'm strongly invested in seeing you succeed as a congregation. I have great confidence you can and will. The beautiful portrait Ed Heidler painted of me will remain in the sanctuary. I'll be watching from the back of the room so you'll know my spirit is still with you even if I'm not physically present.

Remember me and honor me by loving each other, giving more money, risking saying yes and keeping the doors open for the next generation, the next family, and the next person with the light of liberal religion shining in their eyes.

**Faithfully yours, Rev. Sam**