

**From “Hymns
for the
Cerebration of
Strife”**

FORWARD THRU THE PAGES

(tune: Forward Thru the Ages, or Onward Christian
Soldiers; words by Christopher Raible)

Forward thru the pages, never read a line.
Honor all the scriptures, think them all just fine.
Books of differing sizes, spread across our shelves;
We will never study them, we think for ourselves.

Chorus: Forward through the pages,
Never read a line;
Honor all the scriptures,
Think them all just fine.

Not alone in ignorance, not alone at all;
Books by intellectuals cover every wall.
Bound in cloth and paper is our library;
Never read a volume, keep our minds quite free.

Chorus: Forward through the pages,
Never read a line;
Honor all the scriptures,
Think them all just fine.

Wider grow our bookshelves, storehouse of insight--
Ev'ry source of goodness, beauty, truth, and right.
Philosophers have written, prophets testified,
Poets, artists, sages -- leave their works aside.

Chorus: Forward through the pages,
Never read a line;
Honor all the scriptures,
Think them all just fine.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SAN JOSE

April Fools

...dam everything that is grim, dull
motionless, unrisking, inward turning,
dam everything that won't get into the circle,
that won't enjoy,
that won't throw its heart into the tension,
surprise, fear and delight
of the circus
the round world
the full existence...
dam everything but the circus!
—e.e. cummings

Preliminaries Announcements, Chalice lighter, Jokes, Reading, Discussion

Opening / Chalice Lighting
--George Bernard Shaw
When a thing is funny, search it carefully for a hidden truth.

Check-in Take a minute or two to share briefly the high point or the low point since last time we met.

Reading
-- Deng Ming-Dao
It is very important in understanding Tao that we perceive the transient nature of life. Everything is in a state of constant change. Therefore, we can never be complacent. We can never expect places, things or people to remain static. If we understand that, then we have the opportunity to learn more of Tao. If we do not accept that, then madness swiftly overtakes us.

The ancients understood the ephemeral and advised their students not to take life too seriously. Life changes too quickly for us to dwell overly long on a single aspect. Things may go one way for a while, only to change quickly and unpredictably. Therefore, the wise realize that there is nothing to be gained by regarding life as immutable. It is far better to accept and work with its ephemeral quality. Then, no matter how difficult things are, we can laugh.

Singing
--Rev. Christopher Raible
Words are on the back cover

Sharing Jokes Go around the circle again, sharing whatever joke you brought in to share with the group.

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening

Discussion This is a time to supportively respond to something another person has said or to relate additional thoughts that occurred as others shared.

Closing / Extinguishing the Chalice
--Sallie Nichols
Our inner Fool urges us on to life, where the thinking mind might be overcautious. What seems like a precipice from afar may prove to be only a small gulley when approached with the Fool's gusto. His energy sweeps everything before him, carrying others along like leaves in a fresh wind. Without the Fool's energy all of us would be mere pasteboard.