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Farewell to Rev. Garmon

Members and friends said farewell to **Rev. Meredith Garmon, Ph.D.**, in May after he served nine months as the fellowship's first consulting minister.



At a cake and punch reception after the May 9 Sunday service, various persons thanked Rev. Garmon for his sermons and sharing his expertise to various groups on his two-day visits that occurred each month since September.

Rev. Garmon was co-minister at the Gainesville UU church with his wife, Rev. LoraKym Joyner, when he began the UUFMC assignment. Since then, she has moved her ministry to another focus and he was called by the Gainesville fellowship to be the fulltime minister. Thus, he is not available to UUFMC for next year. (*See story on search committee on p. 7*)

Under the arrangement, Rev. Garmon delivered one sermon per month, sat in on various committees, and also made several forum presentations on the history of Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Garmon is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, raised by UU parents. As a layperson, he held leadership posts in three UU fellowships.



Teaching UU History at Forum

Meredith has five degrees in four different fields, including two bachelor's degrees, two master's and a doctorate in government.

He was ordained as a Unitarian minister in 2004 and served congregations in El Paso and Midland, TX before moving to Gainesville. He has studied and practiced Zen Buddhism since 2001.

President's Message

Knowing All The Answers



The Canadian entertainer, philosopher and humorist Red Green talked about those three little words that

men found so hard to say, "I don't know." Red loved hockey and all things Canadian, on his TV show he was the head of the local men's organization, Possum Lodge, in the fictional town of Possum Lake, Ont., near the fictional town of Port Asbestos.

Red's claim to fame was that he knew virtually everything, at least about "guy stuff" such as motors, carpentry and everyday repairs. He was always coming up with the most ridiculous inventions and contraptions that he made out of everyday junk items and, of course, "the handyman's secret weapon," duct tape.

The cast of outrageous characters included Dalton Humphrey, the owner of Humphrey's Everything Store, Mike Hamar, a Damon Runyon-type career criminal, Ranger Gord (a lonely Canadian forest ranger who never left his fire tower), and the tall-tale specialist, Hap Shaughnessy.

All had their individual wacko form of expertise but typically deferred Red for the final answer on any subject.

It's fun to know someone in a TV sitcom who knows everything, but it can get to be troublesome when you are dealing with spiritual matters in real life. There are lots of folks out there who think they know all the answers on religion and since they have the insider track on what is true and what isn't, have little difficulty explaining to you just where you missed the boat. It really gets to be annoying when that person is a Unitarian Universalist.

Well, like, Red Green would say, "Hang in there, I'm pullin' for you, where're all in this together." —*Jim McIntosh*

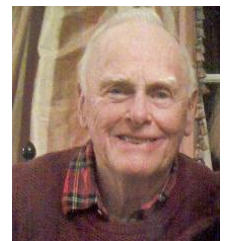
Capital Campaign Report

On May 14, the Capital Campaign Committee held its first full meeting. The committee consists of eight volunteers with a number of unique talents who now must function as an effective TEAM. We must reach out to all members, friends, and recent visitors for the financial support needed to reach the goal of reducing or eliminating the UUFMC mortgage debt during the fellowship fiscal year, ending March 31, 2011.

Our short term goal is to enjoy working together with all members, friends, and recent visitors toward a successful campaign by raising the approximate \$400,000 needed to eliminate our mortgage expense. The longer range goal is to position the fellowship to expand its services to each of us and to other UUs in central Florida and to establish a presence in our communities which reflects our "7 Principles."



Co-chairs Bob Bargar (l) and Bill Denison



Members and friends will soon receive information, including pledge cards and the several options available, explaining how each of us can make our contribution toward reaching our goal.

Please think of your own sources of financial support (including the gift of marketable securities) and also ways where you may be influential in seeking other sources of gifts. And please contact any of the committee members to make suggestions, get additional information, offer assistance, and provide encouragement: **Bob Bargar, Bill Denison, Dick Chady, Andrea Coburn, Bill Coburn, Ruth Deussen, Tom Garman and Jim McIntosh.**

Sunday Schedule for June

Sunday June 6

9: 30 a.m. Forum: Mary Harper will talk about the many services that **Operation Shoe-box** provides including the sending of care packages to troops deployed overseas to help raise morale.

10:30 a.m. Service: Speaker: **Bonnie Whitehurst** -- "*Focus on the Father.*" The centering thought of this talk will be: "I brought my father with me. I hope that you don't mind." Bonnie will highlight her three fathers, call to mind all our fathers and speak about fatherhood in general. She will bring poems, songs, and stories of fatherhood and manhood.

Service Leader: Wendy Griffith

Chalice Lighter: Gil Gilleland

Building Open/Close: Shuster/Donato

Coffee and Hospitality: Mary Ann Donato & Barbara Schuster

Sunday June 13

9: 30 a.m. Forum: *The Science of Miracles:* **Janeane Reagan**, Ph.D. will lead the discussion following a video by Gregg Braden that helps to explain the role of emotion, thought, feeling, and the power of prayer in the creation of peace, health, and happiness.

10:30 a.m. Service: Speaker: **Bill Lazarus** -- "*Jewish Humor.*" This talk deals with the origin of Jewish humor and, of course, examples. Jewish humor is unusual and the source of American humor.

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: P K Kobes

Building Open/Close: Kobes/Barefield

Coffee and Hospitality: Hope Deckman & Mary Hord

Sunday June 20

9: 30 a.m. Forum: **Cindy Kuckel** will lead a group discussion of **Favorite Summertime Memories**. After the main service, please join us for an Ice Cream Social with root beer floats (or sugar-free equivalents) for only \$1.

10:30 a.m. Service: Speaker: Dr. Robert Tucker – "*Does Your Essence Precede Your Existence?*" Honoring the 105th anniversary of the (June 21st) birth of philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, Dr. Tucker will examine Existentialism and highlight the many affinities it has with Unitarian Universalism.

Service Leader: Dick Chady

Chalice Lighter: Doug Worthington

Building Open/Close: Griffith/Chady

Coffee and Hospitality: Wendy Griffith & Susan Ashley

Sunday June 27

9: 30 a.m. Forum: Ken Lyons will present Service Dogs of Florida, which offers dignity, hope, and independence by providing highly trained & skilled service dogs to individuals with disabilities.

10:30 a.m. Service: Speaker: Jim McIntosh – "Man's Greatest Invention Reality" We all put so much emphasis on "reality," but do we ever wonder where it comes from. Did it arise full-blown with the creation of the universe or did we make it up?

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Ed Hord

Building Open/Close: Deussen/Coburn

Coffee and Hospitality: Wendy Griffith & Barbara Thomas

Memorial Garden Nears Completion



Soon UUFMC members and friends will be able to remember a loved one or just take a break in the quiet solitude of the newly completed Memorial Garden.

In building the garden in the left rear corner of the fellowship property, a contractor created a rectangle with a perimeter of virburnum shrubs. A wrought-iron archway leads visitors onto a teardrop-shaped walkway lined with stepping stones. Several knock-out rosebushes lining the path provide color.

Within two years, the virburnums should be six feet tall. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, co-chaired by **Bill Denison** and **Dick Bassette**, hopes to add benches and a fountain when donations permit.

The project is self-financing through donations, with more than half of the \$4,400 goal received so far. Some 14 persons have purchased memorial stones to be inscribed with the names of loved ones. The B&G Committee will set a price for buying additional engraved stones.

The contractor, 5 Star Services, gave a substantial discount in exchange for having its name on a stone. A dedication ceremony is planned for later this year.

(Information or donations: Bill Denison at abcdenison@yahoo.com or Dick Bassette at dick.bassette@gmail.com)

New Members



Sylvia and Bev Wince, who moved here from Dayton, OH, specifically picked UUFMC for its location, size and mission. Sylvia is a former teacher; Bev worked as a civilian for the Air Force. They were very active members of the UU Fellowship of Miami Valley, OH.



Joan Nicewick is a snowbird from the Chicago suburb of Niles, IL, who spends winters in Ocala. She also attends the UU Church of Evanston, IL. In her spare time, she paints in pastels.

CrUUising for Fun and Profit



UUFMC found treasure in the Caribbean, but it wasn't buried pirate loot.

The congregation received \$3,800 from the latest cruise organized by **Pete and Ray Jarmers**. They made it possible for UUFMC members and friends to do good while having fun for 10 days in the southern Caribbean.

For the past four years, the Jarmers organized annual cruises to different parts of the Caribbean through the American Automobile Association. UUFMC receives a fee for each person who signs on. This year's proceeds from the 50 participants, including eight UUFMC members, mean the Jarmers have helped to raise a total of \$13,699 for the congregation's building fund.

The Jarmers, who moved to Spruce Creek South from south Florida in 1995, joined UUFMC in 2005, when services were at a small recreation building in Cherokee Park in Ocala.

Pete, a former accountant and tax consultant, said they were motivated to help the building fund because there were only 40-50 members in those days. In addition, they became members of the Fellowship LLC, the member-created bank that financed the building of the current fellowship home and holds the mortgage.

"It was great fun seeing the church go up," she said. They value the fellowship, she said, because "there are a lot of intelligent, congenial people and we have a lot of fun."

The couple recently moved into Lakeview Terrace in Altoona, FL, a life care community. Although they enjoy many activities there, they have hung up their deck shoes and blazers and will leave it to others to be the next cruise organizers.

UUA Debates Whether to Cancel Phoenix GA

From the UUA Web site:

Given the recent enactment of anti-immigrant legislation in Arizona, the UUA Board of Trustees called a meeting on Thursday, May 6, to discuss General Assembly (GA) 2012, previously scheduled to be held in Phoenix.

Moderator **Gini Courter** framed the beginning of the meeting around questions of basic information. We learned of the cost of moving GA away from Phoenix (possibly as high as \$617, 000) given our commitments to hotels there. We were advised that additional costs, tangible and otherwise, might be assumed as a consequence of breaking our word with convention hosts. We heard about the organizations already cancelling conferences in Arizona, and the calls of those and other advocacy groups for boycott and unity. We also listened to voices asking us to remain in Phoenix, to provide encouragement there for the local struggles.

By the end of the meeting, we concluded that a values-first decision would make meeting in a location where Unitarian Universalists would be potentially subject to hostile, dangerous, and undignified treatment intolerable. By the same token, our solidarity with those standing on the side of love within the state requires that pulling the GA from Phoenix represent a deeper, not lesser, engagement with the vitally important witness against such hateful legislation.

In terms of process, the Board desired both to make a clear statement of our position, as well as encourage broad participation in this decision making at General Assembly. As a result, the resolution below will be presented to General Assembly 2010.

UUFMC Considers Phoenix Boycott

At its meeting June 14, the Board of Trustees will consider whether and how to instruct Delegate **Doug Worthington** how to vote on the resolution.

"Whereas the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law—SB 1070—that runs counter to our first principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person,

Whereas the Association stands in solidarity with allies using a widespread economic boycott of Arizona as leverage for Love against this hateful legislation;

Be it resolved: we will not meet in a state of fear.

Accordingly, the Assembly hereby:

- Directs the UUA GA Planning Committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees an alternate location for General Assembly 2012 at a location outside the state of Arizona;
- Pledges to generate from Member Congregations the amount sufficient to cancel arrangements in Phoenix for GA 2012;
- Pledges further to generate an equal or greater amount to fund ongoing efforts to Stand on the Side of Love in Arizona.
- Pledges to renew and redouble our efforts to become a multicultural, anti racist Association; to live as a people standing faithfully in opposition to systemic racism in our congregations, local communities, and in our own lives."



Philosophers' Den Series on the Mind

On Fridays at 4:00 p.m., the Philosophers' Den at UUFMC will be viewing a new Teaching Company Video series called "*Philosophy of the Mind: Brains, Consciousness and Thinking Machines.*" Taught by **Prof. Patrick Grim** of SUNY-Stony Brook, this is more about how we think, and how we think about thinking, than it is about the brain. Topics include Perception and Artificial Intelligence.

This is a concept that will intrigue every one of us and help us all gain insight into what makes us "tick" individually and collectively.

Join us for an adventure away from and into reality. No commitment required – come and check it out!
(Robert Ridgard rridgard@yahoo.com.)

Three Apply to Be Minister

The Search Committee is considering three candidates for next year's consulting minister post. They hope to have a recommendation by the end of June.

Members of the panel, who were chosen at the annual meeting, are **Fran Frydman** (chair) **Bill Coburn**, **Joyce Mills**, **Millie Mitchell** and **Robert Ridgard**. They are spending a lot of time on the task and working diligently.

Thinking About Becoming a Member??

If you have been attending UUFMC for a while and might like to become a member, you are invited to be among those who will be recognized at a service the third Sunday of any month during which new members have signed the book.

For more information about membership and signing, please call **PK Kobes** (633-3563), or **Andrea Coburn** (751-6673) or any other member of the Membership Committee.

Events for Florida UUs

You can find events of interest to Florida UUs on the district's Web site at www.floridadistrict.org/

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