

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Dick Chady & Ruth Deussen

April 2010



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County., Florida, Inc.

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Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

April 4th

Speaker: Ann Barefield -- "The Stories We Tell". Ann will discuss how the stories we tell about ourselves, others, the organizations to which we belong and life in general affect who we are and what we do. She will use stories from history as examples.

Forum: TBA or open discussion.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Griffith Close: Barefield

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith and Barbara Thomas

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

April 11th

Speaker: John Higgins -- "Norbert Capak - an Unknown Unitarian Martyr. He Died for His Faith and Country." Rev. Higgins will blend flower and earth day in discussing Capek, who is relatively unknown to North Americans. He was a nationalist hero during the Nazi occupation and man who brought American Unitarian to Czechoslovakia. This work is demonstrated today with two congregations in the Czech Republic that have resisted Nazi and Communist governments and an internal schism.

Forum: *Science & Religion Video, Lecture 3 -"Faith and Reason-Scripture and Nature"* In this lecture the presenter confronts some basic conceptual and philosophical issues in the science-religion question. What are the legitimate means of acquiring sure knowledge.
Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Kobes Close: Mitchell
A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard
Coffee & Hospitality: P K Kobes and Betsy Gilleland
Service Leader: Doug Worthington

April 18th

Speaker: Meredith Garmon -- *Biotheology 5: Worship and Prayer.*
What does religious practice do to our brains -- and why might we want our brains done that way?
Forum: *Religious Education - History, etc of Unitarian Universalism up to today.*
Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Ridgard Close: Kemp
A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard
Coffee & Hospitality: Betsy Pinter and Susan Ashley
Service Leader: Mary Ann Donato

April 25th

Speaker: Marc Adams -- *"Hope Needs Only Hands and Hearts".* Growing up the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister is tough enough. Growing up gay in an environment where your parents, teachers and peers deem evangelical Christians as left wing liberals is an entirely different experience. Marc Adams grew up in such a home. In an effort to save his own life, he rebelled against his parents and attended Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he thought he could find a way to change his behavior from homosexual to heterosexual. His experience there changed his life and jump started his journey to self acceptance and personal freedom.
Forum: Open Discussion – This will be another opportunity for the congregation to discuss what they like and don't like about what we are doing. Come ready to discuss what you see as important for the consideration of all of us.
Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Marciano Close: Deussen
A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard
Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster and Fran Marciano
Service Leader: Ruth Deussen

Announcements

Happy Birthday

April 6 Yolanda Brod
7 Dot O'Hara
11 Sylvia Kelch
14 Carole Clarke
15 Dan Peski
21 Al Pinter
25 Judy Lawrence

27 Carole Carver

29 Rod Sheffer

If you do not see your name here and you want us all to celebrate your Birthday then email / call Bill or Andrea Coburn, Millie Mitchell or other membership folks.

President's Message – April 2010

"I know you think you know what I meant when I said what I said, but I didn't mean for you to think that I didn't say what I meant."...a former candidate for the Senate

I have often said that there was a time at the dawn of human kind when we all understood each other perfectly. We all knew what a shrug of the shoulder, a frown or poke in the jaw meant. Then someone invented language and we haven't understood each other since.

Over the past few months we have taken one forum session per month to conduct an open discussion of whatever was on our minds. These sessions have been like super connections meetings.

The goal has been to allow people to express themselves and provide their opinion openly. I think we are accomplishing that. There have been a few feathers ruffled in the process but it has been interesting to see people react to what someone else has stated and then have to support their reaction.

Like in all situations the definition of words has been critical to our discussion. In a recent forum we undertook a definition of the word religion. There were about as many definitions as there were speakers. Two dictionaries that were consulted disagree on the definition. When we are faced with varying definitions we must be more tolerant of what is said.

Ah, there's a good word; tolerant. The Principles say we accept other people because they have worth and dignity. Is acceptance and toleration the same thing? Some would say that the act of toleration implies a sense of superiority, which should not be tolerated. So which should we do, accept or tolerate? Let me suggest that either, in a given circumstance may be a valid concept. Some situations I accept, some I tolerate, and some I do neither. I may accept the fact that my neighbor covets my car but I would not tolerate her actually taking it. Although an individual's thoughts are their own person property and we should respect their right to have them, the actions that may stem from those thoughts need not be. Standards of behavior must be established, no matter how accepting you may be.

Unitarians Universalists are the kind of people we are because we realize that there will be suffering, hunger, and abuse in the world but we do not tolerate the idea that it must continue.

Jim McIntosh

Haiti Fundraiser Update. Thank you. Thanks to all the wonderful performers and support staff. Thanks to the members and friends who brought munchies. Thanks to those who attended, and those who bought tickets but couldn't attend. Thanks to all of you who dropped a little extra into the love offering basket. Thanks to those who pitched in and helped set up and clean up. We collected \$1,669.00 during the fund raiser. Combined with previous collections for Haiti, YOU have given \$4,667 to Haiti relief efforts. For your generosity, thank you.

By popular demand, **The Philosophers Den** will begin meeting Every Friday at 4 PM beginning 02 April 2010. If you haven't yet joined us you are missing interesting topics presented in a style that can keep you from expanding your mind.

Stay young - keep your mind active! (See details below)

Hello Philosophers

April begins our weekly meeting schedule, the same 4PM on Fridays.

For those who like to review the material before hand, go to www.justiceHarvard.org and look at the top bar – the second tab from the left is “Episode Guide”. Click on this tab to access a synopsis of each episode. You may also preview the video.

April 2nd we will do Episode 5, April 9th is Episode 6, April 16th is Episode 7, April 23 is Episode 8, and April 30th will be Episode 9.

On the 23rd and 30th Rita and I will be out of town, so we will be asking for assistance as before to open/close the building, operate the AV and Moderate the Q& A.

Everyone is welcome.

Care Corner. Jim Mitchell`s mother died on March 26, 2010. Jim and Millie went North to attend the Funeral. Condolences and cards would be appreciated. We extend our sincerest sympathy to Jim and Millie who have cared for Jim`s mother for many months.

Easter Egg Tree. Yes, we do have an "easter egg" tree this year! You saw it last Sunday. Looks a little like a “holiday tree.” Each egg lists items needed for the homeless of Marion County. Take an egg, purchase the items on the egg, and bring them to the fellowship on Easter Sunday or the following Sunday (**April 11**). We will make sure they get to their destination, and YOU will have the pleasure of knowing you made a life just a little better. Mary Ann Donato is heading this effort, so please see her or any member of the Social Justice Committee for more details.

UU and You is a committee that helps to set up very social events for our Fellowship. Next on our agenda, would be helping to plan and set up upcoming Potlucks that will correspond with Meredith's visits. They will be held on **April 12th**.

We are in need of people who are willing to step up and help by serving as members of the UU and You committee.

If you have the time to help our Fellowship by serving on this committee please contact Celia Everist at 352-438-0283. **UU NEEDS YOU!**

Separate Tables will meet at 11:30 AM on Thursday, April 15th, at Fuji's Steak House, on Hwy 441/27 across from Walmart. This is a very popular spot for our group. We need to have a correct count by April 11th so the restaurant can have the correct number of chefs on hand. Susan Ashley is host.

MAY SEPARATE TABLES will be at 11:30 AM Thursday, May 20, at the Player's Grill, Spruce Creek Country Club, off Hwy 441/27.

There's a good selection of sandwiches, etc. while enjoying the view over the golf course. Please sign up on the sheet provided at the back of the room. Carolyn Denison.

First Annual Clean-Up and Picnic Day. Dear UU Family and Friends. Please mark on your calendar **May 12th between 8:00 am and noon.** The Building and Grounds Committee is organizing The First Annual Clean-Up and Picnic Day. The nature of the picnic is in the formative stages. A sign up sheet will be circulated at an up-coming Forum that will allow you to select how you would like to help. Some of the things we will be doing is washing windows, dusting, vacuuming, dousing fire ant mounds, pruning shrubs and general cleaning. There will be more information about this as we approach the date. We have a beautiful building and know you want to help take care of it . It should be lots of fun.

2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2010 UUA General Assembly will be take place in Minneapolis, MN from June 23 through June 27. If you are thinking about attending information is available at:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

This year UUFMC is entitled to three delegates. If you plan to attend and would like to be a candidate for one of the three delegate positions, please inform one of the Board of Trustees members of your desire. This year the Assembly will take up the Statement of Conscience, Peacemaking, as well as Congregational Study Action issues, proposed changes and amendments to UUA Bylaws and Rules, and the proposed Business Resolution. You can find more information on this at;

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/businesssocial/index.shtml>

Peacemaking can be found at,

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml>

Registration for Adults who will be attending the full conference is \$310 if registered prior to May 1 and \$355 through June 27.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, April 2010

It's the month for the annual column about our annual General Assembly to be held in Minneapolis from June 23rd to June 27th, and to encourage your attendance at this wonderful meeting where UU delegates and a lot of other UU folks gather to experience the way we do business. To start with...imagine being with others who want to grow in number and impact vibrant, reaching-out, hopeful congregations. It is at GA the skills and practices to achieve the most for our congregations can be discovered. For those of you who have attended GA UU University, and had hoped to do so again it will not be held this year. UU University is slated to become an every-other-year event in the future.

We know we are charged with creating multicultural, multiracial congregations that minister to each coming generation in a changing American society. Programs will be offered to help us on the journey. You can also come to GA to nourish the mind and spirit. There will be programs that delve into the theological and spiritual foundation of our UU faith. One of the programs, "A House for Hope: Our Theological Foundation", will be led by Dr. Rebecca Parker, President of Meadville Lombard Theological School, and Rev. John Buehrens, past President of our UUA. There will also be multiple programs to provide resources to congregations for the development of exciting, meaningful worship services that are intergenerationally and multiculturally inclusive.

The Reverend Paige Getty, who has served the UU Church of Columbia, MD since 2003, will preach the 2010 Service of the Living Tradition. Rev. Getty has been selected because our President, Rev. Peter Morales knows we need to develop a strategy for ministry for the next generation and he purposely sought a preacher who was in her first decade of ministry.

An annual highlight of GA is the Ware Lecture. Winona LaDuke will be the Ware Lecturer this year. As many of you know she is a Native American activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer. Ms. LaDuke is a graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, and ran for U.S. vice-President in both 1996 and 2000 as the nominee of the Green Party.

In past year's columns about GA I have neglected to write about the social service community project that is always a part of our time at GA. In addition to contributing money to this year's service project, GA attendees will have the opportunity to offer hands-on service at Hope Community, a neighborhood revitalization center.

Hopefully these few words are enough to entice you to journey to Minneapolis. All the information about programming for GA, how to register, and find housing can be found on our UUA website, www.uua.org. There is also great information about the city of Minneapolis. I will be there; but I also can be reached at jlund@uua.org or by phone: 813-931-9727.

The Tri County Interfaith Group

Presents

A free community program

“The Faith Club”

A Readers’ Theatre

adapted from the book, The Faith Club

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church

250 Avenida Los Angeles

The Villages

(By Morse gate on 466)

**After 9/11, three women – Muslim, Jewish and Christian –
met to try to understand each other’s religions.**

**“The Faith Club”, a memoir
of spiritual reflection in three voices
that will make you feel
as if you are eavesdropping
on the authors’ private conversations
as they discuss
their concerns, stereotypes and misunderstanding
about one another.**

For more information, contact Rob, 352-750-0246

INTERFAITH HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

***Congregation Or Chayim is holding an Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service in conjunction
with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 02201 SPRING LAKE ROAD,***

FRUITLAND PARK, FL on SUNDAY, APRIL 11 AT 5:00 PM.

Rav Arthur Grae and Cantor Elaine Grae will officiate, together with speakers from the Jewish, Christian and Moslem communities.

All are welcome to attend. No admission charge. Light refreshments will be served after the service.

New articles above

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Reprint articles below

UUFMC Calendar

If you have additions, deletions, or modifications to items listed on the UUFMC calendar please send them to Andrea Coburn as soon as possible. Your compliance will reduce the chance for conflict in schedules and enhance the use of the resources of our UUFMC church.

Chalice Lighters

Members and friends who would like to participate in the Sunday service by lighting the chalice are welcome to do so. A calendar is available for you to sign up on the date you wish to light the chalice. Look for it on a bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. If for some reason you do not find the "sign up calendar" email or phone Phil Lindsley 751-0225 or PL11@hotmail.com . Thank you!

From Denominational Connections Committee

There are so many things happening at Cluster, District and National level, we encourage you to check the web site at www.floridadistrict.org regularly. A few highlights are:

- April 7 UU Lobby Day (Tallahassee)
- April 9-11 Florida District Assembly with UUA Moderator Gini Courter (Miami)
- June 23-27 UUA General Assembly (Minneapolis)
- August 8-13 Southland UU Leadership Experience (The Mountain, Highlands, NC)

You can find additional information posted in the back of the main room and at www.floridadistrict.org

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