

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons *Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen*
August 2008

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

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Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

August 3rd

Building and Grounds Duty Person: George Crichton

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord

Forum: Gary Linn, Ex-Director of the Interfaith Emergency Fund will discuss the Food for Kids Program

Greeters: Barbara & Gene Klein, Laura Baker

Service Leader: Robert Ridgard

Chalice Lighter: Allie Gore

Speaker: Marshall Frank – “The Failure of Capital Punishment”

August 10th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Ed Hord

Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster

Forum: Cindy Kuckel will discuss the Death Penalty

Greeters: Catherine O’Neill, Ray & Pete Jarmer

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Barbara Klein

Speaker: Mindy Simmons – “Find Your Center” A presentation of song and talk.

August 17th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: John Deckman

Coffee & Hospitality: Jeanne Collins

Forum: Dr. Michael Gutter will discuss “Managing Your Finances during Tough Times”

Greeters: Andrea & Bill Coburn

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Bill Coburn

Speaker: Jim McIntosh – “The god above God” A discussion of the “god” even God answers to; inspired by a comment by Rev. Paul Tillich.

August 24th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Andrea Coburn

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith

Forum: Peggy Wolfson will discuss Viruses

Greeters: TBA

Service Leader: Jim Mitchell

Chalice Lighter: Joyce Mills

Speaker: Don Hill – “HATE, The Other Four Letter H Word” In an era of media sensationalism, political ineptitude, nationalism/separatism, greed and increased terrorism, we are being increasingly lured into the “Hate Club”

August 31st

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Zannelli

Coffee & Hospitality: Fran Marciano

Forum: Stan Plocherczyk will discuss “Indian Artifacts”

Greeters: Pat Wilson, Coleen Ridenour

Service Leader: Wendy Griffith

Chalice Lighter: Barbara Klein

Speaker: Rene Zenaida and singing group Audacity – “Would You Harbor Me?”; the personal face of immigration. If you look into the eyes of another human being, could you just turn her or him away?

Announcements

President’s Message – Ann Barefield

We will soon have completed our second month in our special UU home and how wonderful it has been to be able to schedule business meetings and social events in such a user friendly location. The sound system has been such a wonderful addition. It is nice to be able to see Rita Ridgard’s beautiful presentations on the screens. In fact, Ken Hurto was so impressed with her work that he used her DVD on chalices at the Florida In-Gathering at GA.

The Interior Aesthetics Committee has done a great job with the silk plants they chose for the front of the meeting room and live plants outside. The silk plants give the room such a warm feeling. Additionally, the Building and Grounds Committee has done a wonderful job of getting the grass to grow and the committee members are planning to plant shrubs to make the front of the building attractive. Both committees have been hard at work. A big thank you to everyone on these committees!

The beautiful wall hanging in the front hall was created by Louise Colussi and it is a nice addition to our lovely entrance. If you have not had a chance to look into the kitchen recently, you will be surprised to see the lovely new cabinets, stove, refrigerators, and dish washer. The kitchen committee is busily getting everything organized. Thank you to all who gave money to help make this completed kitchen possible.

*I am grateful to my three children who donated the beautiful new chalice. It was crafted by Mordecai Roth from bronze. It is a smaller version of the tree of life chalice that is used at GA. You can see more of the artist’s works at the following Website:
http://www.uniuniques.com/UniFineArt/Chalices/Roth_M/Roth.htm*

We have had two Separate Tables meetings at the building and I was able to attend the last one. How surprised I was at how nice it was to be able to meet in a quiet location and actually carry on a conversation with two whole tables of women. I'm not sure how the guys got along, but the women had a great time.

I hope you are enjoying our new home as much as I am. Every time I walk into the meeting room I think about all of those who had the dream so many years ago and were willing to move from Silver Springs Shores and spend time in sometimes less than desirable locations to get where we are today. Thank you to all of you who were part of shaping that dream. Also, I thank all of you who have contributed your money and time and continue to contribute to make and keep this a place of which we can be proud.

Ann

Leadership Team Meeting

There will be a combined Leadership Team and Board meeting on September 14, 2008 after the service at UUFMC to discuss ways to implement the plans for the retreat and develop long range plans for the Fellowship. Board Members and Leadership Team members please let Ann Barefield know if you will not be able to attend. It will be important to have a representative from every committee present.

August Board Meeting

The August Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building in the conference room. Please send your items for the agenda to Ann Barefield as soon as possible. The agenda will be attached to the weekly update on August 1, 2008.

Social Justice - Fifth Sunday Collection.

The social justice committee has selected "Stuff The Bus" as the recipient of our Fifth Sunday Collection. As a reminder this will be all cash and checks so designated which are collected on the fifth Sunday. Stuff The Bus helps provide school supplies and clothing to "our" homeless children right here in our own community. Please give generously, the need has never been greater. This is one we can, as UJers, walk the talk as well as talk the walk.

Bob Zannelli

Building & Grounds Committee

*The building alarm system will be activated beginning AFTER the first service in **August (8/3)**. If you are a key-holder, or someone who believes they will be need to have access (using a key obtained from Andrea Coburn), and have not yet had the training, please contact either George Crichton or Bob Zannelli to get the required training on the security system.*

*It is requested that you **do not drive or park on the raised "mound" grassy area** inside / to-the-right of the 90-degree turn (between where you turn to the right 90 degrees after coming in the grassy "driveway", and the building itself), due to this area having the water piping system underground.*

If anyone has any needs having to do with the UUFMC building (access, table & chair set-up, etc.) during the week, the "Duty B&G Committee Member" listed for each Sunday will be the point of contact during the following week. E.g. from above – Duty B&G Committee Member: Cindy Kuckel is on duty this next week.

UUFMC Policies

In the library is a red three-ring binder that contains a hard copy of the policies approved by the Board thus far. You are welcome to review it.

The following policy was approved by the Board at the June meeting. If you have any comments about this policy, please let a Board member know.

Credit Card and Store Account Use Policy

It is not the policy of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County to make casual use of the Fellowship's credit card or Fellowship Store Accounts. The encouraged form of purchase of items for committee use is to first pay for the item(s) and present the receipt for reimbursement. All purchases, account shall be by approved by the committee chair prior to purchase. Before approval, the chairperson will ascertain that sufficient appropriation remains in the committee budget. If the chairperson is unsure he or she will check with the Fellowship treasurer.

In certain situations it may be necessary to make purchases through the use of the Fellowship credit card or store accounts. The approval of the treasurer is required. It is anticipated that the credit card or store accounts will be used rarely. In instances where either the credit card or store accounts are to necessarily be used on a continuous basis, approval of the Board of Trustees shall be required.

All approved purchases shall be for Board of Trustee approved activities. Purchase of personal items to be used by the purchaser will not be permitted.

New Starting Time – Beginning Sunday, August 3, 2008, the Forum will be from at 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. and the Sunday Service will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This was voted on at a called meeting on July 13, 2008. When you read this message, please share it with everyone you know who attends the Fellowship just in case they did not read it.

Happy Birthday to the following UUFMC members

<i>Ridgard, Robert*</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Edgington, Phil</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Saphian, Marcy</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Denison, Bill*</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Loebel, Shirley*</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Green, George*</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Madsen, Carol*</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Gannett, John</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Gore, Allie</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Daigneau, Brian*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Leadbetter, Bob</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>7</i>

Fair Trade coffee sale! Andrea Coburn



Fair Trade coffee sale! Regular and Decaf (drip grind) will be available on Sunday. Enjoy good coffee knowing you are providing an equitable share of the profit to the growers.

Fair Trade Certified coffee is grown on small, family-run farms. Farmers receiving a Fair Trade price for their coffee can afford improved healthcare and housing for their families and can keep their kids in school longer, instead of working in the fields. Receiving a decent price also means farmers can afford materials for the farm, such as a mule to haul the heavy sacks down the mountain (instead of their own backs) and a mechanical de-pulping machine to process the coffee (instead of a slow hand-crank.) Some of the revenues from Fair Trade cooperatives are used for community projects, such as building schools and healthcare centers. Revenues are also often used to provide farmers with training in organic farming techniques. This is one small way we can join in the spirit of the Study Action topic (Ethical Eating) adopted at the 2008 UUA General Assembly.

Getting to Know Us



George E. Crichton, born 1/28/52 in Washington, D.C.

Grew up in Kensington, Maryland.

I was in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts along with both my younger and older brothers.

George graduated from Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, MD., June 1970.

I worked at various jobs and briefly attended a Junior College for a few years, but being a little fearful that my draft number might be called and I'd have to go into the Army, in 1973 I joined the US Navy. I went into the Radioman Rating telecommunications and, besides many different shore duty assignments, I also served onboard USS Semmes (DDG-18) homeported in Charleston, S.C., and USS Yellowstone (AD-41) and USS Mississippi (CGN-40) both homeported in Norfolk, VA. I also did two one-year tours of duty at the NATO base in Keflavik, Iceland - the last of which I served as the Communications Officer for the base Admiral's Staff from 1992-1993, and is where I retired with full benefits from the Navy with the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

After this retirement I moved to Spokane, WA. and got into the field of office equipment

repair, maintaining and repairing Canon Copiers and facsimile machines, as well as HP and Lexmark printers. After raising my youngest child there as a single Dad I moved back to the Washington D.C. area in 2005 to accept a new position in this field. In July 2007 I moved to Ocala to assist my aging mother in/around her home and so I am now considered "semi-retired". I am new to UU, and became a member of UUFMC in March 2008 where I am enjoying the new friends and freedom of this terrific Fellowship. I have three adult children, two adult step-children, and twelve awesome grandkids, all who live in Washington State.

Highway Sign – Andrea Coburn

We have a wonderful opportunity to erect a sign on Hwy 301. If you have expertise or recommendations of sign makers, please contact Andrea Coburn 751-6673
andreacoburn@thevillages.net

Please join Marion's for Peace on Saturday, **August 2**, at 11 a.m. to let President Bush and the Congress know that we don't want further escalation of war in the Middle East.

Time: 11 a.m. - 12 noon

Location: Route 441 (Pine) and 17th Street SW

Bob Zannelli

Announcement From the Coffee Committee

To those who have signed up to bring baked goods or help with the coffee service, we thank you. However, the list of those who have signed up is short. Can you help by bringing a baked goods to share during the social time or by helping to make and serve the coffee? Now that we've changed the time of the Forum, if you help make the coffee, you'll need to be at the Church at 8:45 am. (Not so early as before!) Please sign one or both of the lists at the coffee station this Sunday. We could use a hand.

UU Theater Interest Group

Tom Garman is exploring interest among UUsers for a "Theater Interest Group." Purposes: (1) share concise views with others about current theater productions within a 90-minute drive, and (2) enhance communications among those who are interested so people might ride share to various productions. If you are interested, please send your contact information to Tom at ethomasgarman@yahoo.com.

Scheduling meetings: Andrea Coburn

If you need to schedule a meeting at the Fellowship, please contact Andrea Coburn (352-751-6673 or andreacoburn@thevillages.net) Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. You can check the Fellowship calendar at www.uufmc.org
Also, please remember that the alarm will be activated this Sunday and you will need to know how to set and unset it. Thanks. Andrea

Stuff the Bus is Back

The bus is back! On the table in the vestibule is our school bus which needs to be stuffed with school supplies and items of clothing for the disadvantaged children of Marion County. If you would like to contribute money or need more information, see Joyce Mills.

Cares & Concern – Marti Bassette

Marti Bassette has had a large stroke. Visitors are restricted. She is in ICU at Leesburg Hospital.

Cards are the best way to communicate with Dick and Marti. Send them to their home. All of their children are gathering around Dick and Marti.

The Care and Concerns co-chairs need to know about anyone that is ill, home bound, or hospitalized. For anyone in the Top of the World area notify Jeanne Collins, 352-291-2925. In The Villages Marti Bassette, 259-4503.

August - Separate Tables – Bill Coburn

When: August 21st 11:30

Where: Ayutaya Thai cuisine

2437 SW 27th Avenue, Ocala – 352-237-3433

The Separate Tables for July was in the UUFMC church. It was a great success and we want to conduct Separate Tables in our facilities on a regular basis when the snowbirds return and restaurants get busy. It was much quieter and comfortable in our church as compared to some of the noisy restaurants we have used.

The clip board will be available until August 17th.

Sign up on the clipboard for an accurate head count.

Separate Tables is a social event where the men and women have lunch at separate tables.

Each group enjoys their own discussions about topics that are important and/or interesting to them. Separate Tables was created to draw the Fellowship members together by allowing them the opportunity to get to know one another better.

August - UU & YOU! - Marion & Bill Marks

Reminder UU & You location is the new UUFMC Building 6:00 pm August 28th

The July UU & You was a real success. Approximately 40 folks attended. Food ranged from covered dishes, KFC chicken, pizza, etc.. The hit dish was chocolate turtle cream pie. YUM.

August will be another potluck at 6 pm at the Fellowship Building. There will be a sign up sheet on the table on Sunday although now that we are gathering in the building it is not so necessary to have exact numbers. We want to encourage people to come. Please bring a covered dish or desert to share with the group. The host will provide common beverages.

Marion and Bill Marks are standing in for Carolyn Denison this summer so please direct any questions to dwsclaw@embarqmail.com Thank-you. Marion and Bill

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, August 2008

A good UU friend suggested since I frequently travel and seem to be refreshed and renewed following being away from home, I write about the benefits of taking trips. So I offer thoughts, some mine, and some from others regarding what travel offers for my soul. Travel has given me an opportunity to relax and de-stress, and has decreased burnout. Travel is much more than walking among the monuments and ruins found around the world. It continues to be an opportunity to connect and discover what is best about the world. Travel has enriched my life; spread prosperity a bit, helped dissolve political barriers, promoted in some small way international good will, and has brought excitement and change to my life. Hopefully

travel has religiously broadened my perspectives, erased boundaries I think I don't have but probably do, and has encouraged diversity. Travel has opened me up to values and ways of living that are at once unfamiliar and illuminating.

Each travel experience is unique in itself, and a powerful engine of change. There are discoveries to be made, be they personal, cultural, geographical, or enriching knowledge of our world. Encountering persons of different cultures is exciting and has helped widen my horizons. I offer some quotes from fellow travelers, my favorite is the final one:

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness" – Mark Twain

"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." – Henry Miller

"To my mind, the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar that it is taken for granted." – Bill Bryson

You may be asking where personal travel fits in to our UU congregational community, and how it relates to UUA Trustee work. May not, in the latter but what if all of us who have the good fortune to be able to visit places others cannot, shared our experiences with the children and youth in our congregations as part of the Religious Education program. We need great RE content in the summer, too. Even though the tempo shifts summer Sundays are a great time to organize activities for which there isn't time during the rest of the church year. My experience in working with children as a teacher for many years found their curiosity always present for learning about children of different cultures and places. Having congregation members share travel experiences, with discussion and activities that relate to them might be a good way to structure the summer program.

No matter what your summer life may be I wish you well and hope you are finding time to relax in whatever mode you find enriching and desirable. I look forward to hearing from you at jlund@uua.org with your thoughts and comments.

UUFMC

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County

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***Sign up to receive your newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail
Send your request to billcoburn@thevillages.net***