

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons *Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen*

November 2008

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 829, Summerfield, Florida 34492

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7280 SE 135th Street, Summerfield Fl. 34491-2510

Telephone Number 352-245-7944

Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

November 2nd

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Mike Donato

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord

Children's RE Program: Mary Hord

Forum: George Erickson will discuss "Non-religious Thanks Giving"

Greeters: Dick Chady & Doug Worthington (9:15), Mark&Louise Colussi (10:10)

Service Leader: Robert Ridgard

Chalice Lighter: Laura Baker

Social justice moments: Joyce Mills

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne will present "A Community of Ministers" – We will explore the concept of a community of ministers, a congregation where each person assumes a responsibility to minister to each other and to our global community.

November 9th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Cindy Kuckel

Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster

Children's RE Program – Jeanne Collins

Forum: Open Discussion. Topic TBA

Greeters: Hope&John Deckman (9:15), Keith&Carole Carver (10:10)

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Marion Marks

Social justice moments: Rona Gold

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Robert P. Tucker will present "Honoring our Veterans" – This will be a positive sermon about the necessary and honorable service our military veterans provide this nation. This Sunday we will put aside our personal feelings about war and concentrate on honoring those who are serving, as well as those who have served in the past.

November 16th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Kemp

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith

Children's RE Program – Joyce Mills

Forum: Allie Gore will discuss "Ombudsmanship at Nursing Homes"

Greeters: Mary Ann & Mike Donato (9:15), Sally&George Erickson (10:10)

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Bill Marks

Social justice moments: Bob Zannelli

Speaker: Jim McIntosh will present “Things are Always Changing” – Change is inevitable in our lives, whether we want it or not. The test of being a real person is how we react to those changes, not whether or not we can prevent them.

November 23rd

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Don Hill

Coffee & Hospitality: Jacky McCabe

Children’s RE Program – Barbara Schuster

Forum: Carole Clark will discuss “English as a Second Language”

Greeters: Phil Edgington & Fran Marciano (9:15), Bill and Carolyn Denison (10:10)

Service Leader: Jim Mitchell

Chalice Lighter: Mary Ann Donato

Social justice moments: Joyce Mills

Speaker: Renee Zenaida will present “Glory and Grace: Art and Spirituality” – The making of art is often described as a spiritual practice, and we are all familiar with great and lesser works of religious art. Moving beyond ‘religious art’ we will explore the space where artists and art viewers alike claim to connect with the spiritual.

Members and Friends are invited to bring one or two pieces of their art to display at this service. Please send a description of the work to Allie at indigo8062@earthlink.net. This info will help in preparation for the service. Thank you!

November 30th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Gore

Coffee and Hospitality: Jeanne Collins

Children’s RE Program: TBA

Forum: Ruth and Jim Prentice will speak about “Jazz”

Greeters: Bill and Marion Marks (9:15), Carole Clark & Catherine O’Neill (10:10)

Service Leader: Wendy Griffith

Chalice Lighter: Andrea Coburn

Social justice moments: Membership Committee

Speaker: This Sunday, the congregation will have a special service to welcome our new members

Quotes - From Celia Friedenthal

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift; that’s why they call it the present.” Eleanor Roosevelt

Announcements

President’s Message – Ann Barefield

Maybe What We Need Is More Dialogue

[Adapted from an article by Kate Berardo and Simma Lieberman]

Consider any complex, potentially volatile issue Arab relations, the problems between Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians, corporate decision making, getting control of the U.S. deficit or health care costs, labor/management relations and so on. At the root of the issue we are likely to find communication failures and cultural misunderstandings that **prevent the parties from framing the problem in a common way**, and thus make it impossible to deal with the problem constructively. Edgar H. Schein, Professor MIT Sloan School of Management

To change a situation or environment or constructively deal with any issue, there first needs to be dialogue. What is dialogue and when should it be used?

What is Dialogue?

Dialogue is a communication tool that allows people to understand other viewpoints without pitting themselves against different perspectives. In dialogue, there is no defending of opinions, and no counterpoints. Instead, you let someone talk and present their viewpoint. You let them finish their idea without interrupting or asking questions. You listen to understand, not to defend your own point of view. Your goal is to get in their head, and understand their perspective, not to prove they're wrong and you're right. When it's your turn, you talk and are allowed to finish your thoughts. And here's the key: when you give your viewpoint, you don't give your viewpoint relative to theirs. Dialogue is not a back and forth discussion, not a debate or rebuttal. It's a chance to frame a problem collectively by both independently voicing your perspectives on an issue.

When should dialogue be used?

Dialogue should be used when, as Edward Schein points out in the quote above, two parties have framed an issue differently. When individuals or groups have different perspectives and see issues differently, dialogue can be employed as an effective communication tool to help the parties understand each other's point of view. Only from this common understanding can change and resolution grow.

How can we use dialogue?

I have heard the following comment many times, "Oh, that we used dialogue more often to solve world problems and issues." Perhaps UUFMC can be a starting place for using dialogue to better understand our members and friends and those from the community who come to speak to us. Maybe we can become the model for what needs to be happening worldwide as we learn to value the diversity in our Fellowship.

October Board Meeting:

The November Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Fellowship. Board members and Leadership Team members are asked to send their agenda items to Ann Barefield at abarefield@comcast.net as soon as possible. If possible, she would like to get the agenda in the **UniVerse** (UUFMC newsletter) that goes out next week.

Members and Friends Participation

Members and Friends are invited to participate in the Sunday services in a variety of ways. Join in!
We need YOU!:

- **Chalice Lighters** - selects a brief reading which pertains to the service topic and read when lighting chalice and close the service with a second brief reading. (Sign up sheets on the tables in the rear of the room. Questions: Rona 750-3913 or gold339@comcast.net)
- **Joys and Concerns** Leaders- read from the script provided and also from the book where members and friends are invited to write their joys and concerns (Sign up sheets on the tables in the rear of the room. Questions: Mary Ann 751-7543 or mimadonato@yahoo.com)
- **Greeters**-stand at the double doors in front and welcome members, friends and visitors as they enter for Sunday service (Sign up sheets on the tables in the rear of the room. Questions: Carolyn: 307-4682 or abccdenison@yahoo.com)
- **Greeters/Ushers** assist visitors as needed, collect offering, take mics to participants during discussion and reflection period after the presentation (Sign up sheets on the tables in the rear of the room. Questions: Carolyn, as above)
- **Hospitality** assistants - help set up, serve and clean up kitchen area for morning coffee before the Forum and for coffee and snacks after the service for coffee hour (Wendy Griffith 465-3450 or codysm695@aol.com)
- **Hospitality** assistants - bring baked or bought goodies for coffee hour following the service. You can bring them when convenient and we will freeze them until needed.

New to UU?

Have questions? Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism in general and UUFMC specifically? Do you want to chat with someone individually or take a class? Contact: Allie 861-4564 or indigo8062@earthlink.net.

NORTHEAST CLUSTER MEETING

Our Fellowship is hosting the northeast cluster meeting **November 15, 8:30A - 4:15P**. This event is an all day workshop on Covenant Groups. Light breakfast and lunch is included. Cost \$10.00. Please make your check payable to NE CLuster of the FLorida District and send to Bob Mohr, 247 Brookline Ave. Daytona Beach, Fl. 32118-3327. If yo uhave dietary restrictions please let us know. For more information please contact Allie Gore 352-861-4564 or indigo8062@earthlink.net.

Cluster Power - Help Create IT !

Our cluster leadership is diligently working to find interested, reliable, organized members to participate in leading the cluster to bigger and better things. Please read the following information about our cluster and consider participating.

What is the Northeast Cluster? The Northeast Cluster comprises Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Northeast region of Florida and is a recognized entity within the Florida District. Its role is to encourage information sharing and teamwork between member congregations so that they can better serve their congregations and the wider UU mission. Congregational representatives to the NE Cluster meet periodically to discuss programs, social actions, fundraising strategies, speaker exchanges, advertising and marketing. Areas of common concern, such as growth and congregational dynamics, are also addressed. Cluster workshops, special events and picnics provide additional opportunities for members to interact with one another. One of the tasks to be accomplished at the November 15th meeting is to set up a nominating committee to prepare a slate from which to elect Cluster officers at the Vero Beach meeting next March 14. Offices to be filled are president, vice president and secretary. This is an opportunity to help strengthen our cluster and grow our faith.

An invitation to help beautify our gathering space.....

We would enjoy flowers or greenery or seasonal decorations for the table on the stage and/or in the vestibule (or both). We need something to reflect the beauty of the seasons. Contact the members of the Program Committee. Mary Ann Donato Judy Kemp, or Allie Gore.

ARTIST of the Month

Thanks to Gene Klein for sharing his artwork last month. These creations are but one facet of his many talents. Thanks again Gene! Please look for the invitation to bring a sample of YOUR creativity for the **November 23rd** service. Thank you in advance for participating!

CONNECTIONS

is the name we are giving our new small group program. Essentially, we will be creating "smaller fellowships within the Fellowship." These groups of eight to ten people will meet on a regular basis with their main goal being to get to know each other better. Guided by trained facilitators, group members will learn, talk, play and work together. In that process members will build friendships, learn to care for one another and grow in understanding. Other Unitarian Universalist communities have experienced a great deal of success with these programs. Participants say that they feel better connected and happier with their lives after taking part in one of these groups; however, these meetings are not intended to be therapy. They also are not a religion course or a replacement for Sunday services.

The Connections steering committee, Wendy Griffith, Ann Barefield, Allie Gore and Fran Marciano, has been hard at work developing this program. We expect to begin facilitator training in November, introduce the program to the Fellowship and sign up participants in February and have groups ready to roll in March. Updates on our progress will be appearing in the Universe. Please consider getting CONNECTED!

From Denominational Connections

Due to rescheduling conflicts the 2009 Florida District Annual Assembly will be held March 20-22 instead of the previously announced April 17-19 2009. The UU Church of Sarasota will be our hosting congregation. This year's theme is economic justice. Additional details will be announced as they become available. Mark your calendars now and let's have a group attending.

From Florida District UUA

On November 4, 2008, Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), will embark on a 19-day pilgrimage to six African countries: South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. While there, Sinkford will:

- Meet with old and new colleagues among the Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists of Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa,
- Learn from the experience and wisdom of leaders in Truth and Reconciliation work in South Africa, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
- Learn from leaders of social justice and human rights organizations involved in diverse struggles, including: LGBT Rights, Fair Wages, HIV/AIDS, Women's Rights, and Socially Responsible Investing,
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site and witness to the Atlantic Slave Trade: Île de Gorée.

We hope that your congregation will be interested in learning more about the pilgrimage and participating in some of the live interactive webcasts that will occur during the journey (see <http://www.uua.org/news/sinkfordafrica/119988.shtml> for more information).

We're now offering a new Order of Service/Sunday Bulletin insert to help promote the trip to your congregations! See http://www.uua.org/documents/internationalresources/0810_africa_bulletin.pdf to download the bulletin insert.

And, for a downloadable four-page booklet on the Africa trip, see http://www.uua.org/documents/internationalresources/0810_africa_booklet.pdf.

Florida District Business: Please read the message below and send any response you might have to the Florida District as instructed. I would also appreciate it if you would send the information to me at abarefield@comcast.net so I can share the information with the Board on November 12, 2008. Thank you for your input!

Ann



October 24, 2008

Dear Florida District Congregations -

Greetings from your Florida District Board! The board has been working hard over the last year to discover and put into words the difference the Florida District can make in the world. To that end, at our August 2008 meeting, we developed a new Mission Statement for the District and revised some of our Ends Statements to better reflect where we think we need to be heading as a District. In addition, we have identified three priorities for the District that assist Rev. Kenn Hurto, our District Executive, in carrying out the work of the District: youth and multigenerational programming; congregations covenanting with each other; and racial, economic and environmental justice.

You should have received a new copy of our Florida District 2008-2009 Directory, which lists the Mission and Ends Statements, but I have included them below for your convenience. They are also on the Florida District website at www.floridadistrict.org/?page_id=268.

We need your thoughts on our Mission and Ends Statements and the priorities we have identified. Please look them over and send us your comments at fldboard@uua.org. Our next board meeting is November 14-15, and we'd love to hear from you before then!

In faith,

Jennifer Carver, President
Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association

Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
Mission and Ends Statements (as revised 08-22-2008)

Mission: *The Florida District creates joyful Unitarian Universalist Congregations covenanting in love and faith.*

Ends:

The Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be a community of healthy, interdependent, self-governed congregations that lives our Unitarian Universalist Purposes and Principles and increases our Unitarian Universalist presence in the world.

There are five subsidiary Ends that further characterize what we hope to achieve:

A. *Members and leaders of healthy congregations are spiritually mature, able to articulate and live our Unitarian Universalist values.*

B. *Healthy congregations are generous, fiscally sound and effectively managed and led.*

C. *Healthy congregations are inviting and diverse, characterized by respectful, compassionate and deep engagement with each other, our communities and the earth.*

1. *Congregations will have vibrant youth and multigenerational programming. (Priority 1)*

D. *Florida District congregations will be connected with each other and the larger community to enhance the impact of Unitarian Universalist values personally, congregationally and communally, while balancing their internal and external focus.*

1. *Congregational leaders and ministers attend General Assembly and District Assembly*

2. *Florida District congregations have covenants with each other. (Priority 1)*

E. *Florida District congregations, working together to become more welcoming, transform themselves and*

their communities to achieve racial, economic, and environmental justice. **(Priority 1)**



Florida District UUA

Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Advancing human rights is the work of many joining hands

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to announce that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's [2008 holiday and note cards](#) are now available. This year's eleven beautiful new designs include an assortment pack of note cards with inspiring images from our work around the world.

By [purchasing UUSC cards](#), you can share special holiday greetings with your loved ones while helping to make a difference in the world. All proceeds help UUSC to advance human rights in the United States and throughout the world.

You can [purchase cards directly](#) from UUSC online now. To discuss bulk rates for families or businesses, please contact me directly at 617-301-4307 or volunteerservices@uuscs.org.

You can also [order cards on consignment](#) to sell in your congregation on behalf of UUSC. To place a consignment order for our cards, please download and fax [this form](#) to UUSC.

Our stock is limited, so order your UUSC holiday cards today!

For more information, please e-mail volunteerservices@uuscs.org or call UUSC at 800-766-5236.

Thank you for your vital support,

Rachel Jordan
Senior Associate for Membership Development

We're counting on your membership! While the purchase of holiday cards

supports our work, it does not renew your membership. Renew your membership today, or give the gift of membership now, online at www.uusc.org!

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Book Club

The book club meeting will be at Bob Zannelli's home on November 21 at 10 AM. We will be going out to lunch after the meeting. The book of the month is "The Age of American Unreason" by Susan Jacoby.

Fifth Sunday.

In every month with five Sundays, on the final Sunday of the month, we donate the loose cash and checks designated, "Fifth Sunday" to a charity selected by the Social Justice Committee after taking into account member and friends suggestions. The selected recipient for this November's Fifth Sunday's collection will be "The Guest at our Table program". Members of the Social Justice Committee will be providing information on this program during our social justice minute. Bob Zannelli

To the Committee Chairs, Group Leaders, Etc.

The process to build the 2009 -2010 Fellowship Operations budget has begun. I am inviting individual who wish to have input into the budget to volunteer to work on the budget committee. In addition the budget committee will need budget requests from Chairs and Group or Program leaders. Since the goal is to complete a budget draft by the end of December of this year we will expect you budget requests by December 1, 2008.

The 2009 – 2010 year is shaping up to be very tight financially so there is no guarantee that budget request may be honored in the final budget. Below are committees and programs that the budget committee will expect input from.

Committees and Groups

Board of Trustees

Finance Committee

Decorations

Covenant Groups

Denominational Connections Sunday Service Committee

Social Justice Committee

Fund Raising

Hospitality Committee

Sunshine/Caring Committee

Programs:

Communications

Membership

Music Program

Program Committee

Rel. Ed. & Child Care Committee

Kitchen

Audio & Sound Committee

Humanist Group meeting – Bob Zannelli

We are having a meeting on November 25 at 6 PM at the Fellowship where Peggy Wolfson will be making a presentation on Viruses. This will now include some fascinating pictures to go along with the fascinating information Peggy will present. Plan on being there if you can.

Budget Process Need Helpers

The Finance Committee is beginning the process of developing the Operations Budget for fiscal 2009 - 2010 which will begin on April 1, 2009. In addition to those on the finance committee I would like to invite any member or friend to participate in the process as well. We would like to coordinate the budget process with the drafting of pledge calendar. With this in mind December 31st is the goal for completion of the draft budget.

The fiscal 09-10 budget will be highly dependent on the success of the pledge drive. The draft that we will produce by December 31 will be revisited over the following two months of January and February as the pledge drive materializes. Budget adjustments will be made during that time period if and as they are needed.

Constructing a budget is a serious process. A budget sets forth the Fellowship's desired programs for the coming year. By helping in its construction you will be bringing those desires closer to realizations.

If you would like to help, contact me, Jim McIntosh. Thank you.

IRS Program Continued:

In the past two years individuals who have been required to take a distribution from their IRAs and other such investments have been able to donate some of that distribution directly to non-profit organizations (like UUFMC) and receive a Federal Tax break. The amount donated has not been counted as income for tax purposes.

This program has been continued through 2009. If you are forced to take a distribution and want to donate that to a non-profit instead of paying tax on it, be sure to discuss this with your financial advisor or tax person. It may be an advantage to you and it certainly will work out fine for the Fellowship. Jim McIntosh

UU Singles Club – Rona Gold

The UU Singles group will be meeting on **Sunday, November 30th**, for lunch. We'll meet in the lobby of the Fellowship after the Doxology to determine where we should go to eat. Please join us for a fun time. Rona Gold 750-3913

Membership – Millie Mitchell & Allie Gore

Have you been attending UUFMC Sunday services, UU & You, Separate Tables and enjoy what you have experienced? Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism? Are you interested in becoming a member of our fellowship? If you want to arrange a one on one meeting to discuss your questions about any facet of our fellowship (what is involved in becoming a member, what is the difference between members and "friends", etc.) contact Allie Gore indigo8062@earthlink.net or 352-861-4564 or Millie Mitchell jdmemitch@lightningspeed.net or 352-307-4670.

Caring Committee - Yolanda Brod

Please call Yolanda 751-5587 if you would like to provide a prepared food dish and transportation occasionally for members and friends that could use our support.

Yolanda will be chairing the Caring Committee and it will be important for members and friends to call her if you know of someone in our Fellowship who is ill or needs assistance from us. Yolanda does not have an e-mail address but her telephone number is (352) 751-5587. Please contact her so she can notify the committee and keep the work going that Marti Bassette started.

Choir – Ruth Prentice

Choir practice is at church every Thurs. from 1:00 to 3:00, unless notified. New people who read music are welcome to join us. Ruth Prentice 307-6620

From the Building & Grounds Committee:

The kick-off meeting of the newly formed Landscaping sub-Committee will be held after the Service (about 12:30pm) on Sunday, November 9th, in the Sanctuary chair section where the Forum meets (front left area). This meeting will be to get an idea of the number (and names) of members desiring to have input into the landscaping of our grounds, and to get their initial input, questions, etc. It should be fairly short in length, with further meetings scheduled over the following months where specifics will be gone into as far as ideas, wants, needs, desires, plans, etc., with respect to all plantings and the landscape design of our property. All members and friends desiring to have a say into how our grounds will look are encouraged to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend but desire to be a member please contact a Building & Grounds Committee co-chair.

All members and friends are reminded that our driveway extends through the Porte Cochere, directly by/next to the front door, for anyone desiring to briefly stop their vehicle to drop off persons and/or packages, and then continue on through to park the vehicle in the approved row of parking spaces. So as to keep the driveway clear for these vehicles to exit the Porte Cochere, there is NO PARKING in this driveway area (before & after the Porte Cochere, along the side of the building, between AND on either side of/past the posted No Parking signs). Your cooperation is appreciated.

Child Care – Mary Hord

“Child Care during the 10:30 service, will be available beginning in September. Additional volunteers are needed to insure this service.

Please let us know if you would be willing to help on this committee. Contact Mary Hord at 352-237-2449 mhord@otowhomes.com

Washable Silk Clothing

Washable Silk Clothing for Women Fundraiser will be held Friday, November 21st, from 1PM-4PM at Carolyn Denison's home at Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club. Primarily, the available clothing will be rep's samples in many gorgeous colors and sizes. Prices have been established as cost plus \$10 per item to the Fellowship. Prices start at #30. Plan to bring your friends! Driving directions will be available. Thanks, Barbara Schuster

Fund Raising Committee:

The Fund Raising Committee has been contacted by Rona Gold who would like to organize a Rummage Sale. Rona's planned dates are December 7-10 (Sun-Wed). The time has yet to be determined. Sunday and Monday would be reserved for the members and friends of the fellowship to shop. Tuesday and Wednesday would be advertised for the local community. If you are willing to donate items and/or volunteer to help at the sale, please contact Rona at 352-750-3913 or gold339@comcast.net .

Fund Raiser: Wine tasting

Fund Raiser: Wine tasting at the Klein's on December 5th, Friday evening at 6:30. White wines will be featured. Details will follow. Limit is 15. Mark your calendar and plan to sign up in the near future. Barbara Schuster

[A request for other teachers--](#)

We have an untapped well of brilliance among us. Art, Music, informal discussions of Unitarianism, American history or Great members of American history (Ben Franklyn, Thomas Jefferson...) Mayan culture, Great Short stories.... If you love to teach, think something up. If you are in love with a subject and have read a book on it, come teach in our series.

What do you love to talk about? What do you want to hear about? We can be cheaper than Lifelong Learning College. Contact Barbara Schuster.

[New Cookbook - Celia Freidenthal](#)

A new U.U. cookbook is being planned. The title will be "Healthy Food For One, Without Actually Cooking" (or cleanup). Please submit recipes to Celia Freidenthal 352-873-2671 or Barbara Schuster 352-390-3822 for publication in this non-cooking book.

[Cookbook REMINDER – Barbara Schuster](#)

Remember the wonderful cookbooks we created last year? Well, you can have your own copy this year. Anyone wishing to add one to their book shelf, please contact Barbara Schuster, either by phone, e-mail or in person this Sunday. The cost is just \$10. Give one as a gift to family and friends. Going to a Labor Day party? Take one to your host/hostess. The recipes are delicious. 100% of the proceeds go to the building fund. Thank you.

[Social Justice – Bob Zannelli – URGENT Appeal](#)

Members and Friends, unfortunately over the past several Sundays the amount of items collected for the Interfaith Emergency Services and the Domestic violence shelter has been falling off. We all need to be reminded that in this time of economic crisis we need to do what we can to lend a helping hand in our community. If everyone purchased just one item to donate each time they went shopping this would make a real difference. The following is needed;

Non Perishable food items

Personal Hygiene items.

Baby things, especially diapers.

Clothing and shoes in good condition.

[UUSC holiday cards](#)

The Social Justice Committee will have UUSC holiday cards on sale during the month of November. The special price is \$5 for a pack of ten cards.

[Happy Birthday to the following UUFMC members& Friends](#)

11/26 Jeanne Collins

11/28 Ruth Deussen

11/09 Karen Hoch

11/10 Trish Powers

11/18 Joe Rada

11/12 Russ Saphian

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

Getting to Know Us

Each month we like to feature one or two folks in the Uni-Verse by printing a 3-4 paragraph autobiography that you email to me. I then forward it to Bill Coburn to be printed.

We would like your "story" if you wish to tell it. It helps people to get to know you. Or...Just drop me a one line saying that you prefer not to do this. That way I will stop emailing you for it. Thanks.

Carolyn Denison

An example follows.



Phil Edgington

Starting while he was at Ball State University in Music Education and on for a Masters in counseling and guidance, Phil has had three major consistencies in his life: vocal music, the Veterans Administration Medical System and Unitarian Universalism.

His work with veterans started as a music therapist and in the 60's took a turn into the fields of Director of Volunteers and as a Public Relations Officer. Every move up the ladder meant a physical move to a new location and his involvement with UU and music followed.

As a college student Phil was the tenor in the quartet in the Muncie IN UU. In the late 50's he started a UU fellowship with the Dalheims in Chillicothe, OH.. On to Albany, NY; then to Deerfield, IL. They built a new church while he was there and he was the director of the adult choir and some times of the youth choir. In the Williamsville, NY UU he sang in the choir and while a member of the Birmingham AL UU they were the first church to use the course "Human Sexuality" for youth and adults.

Phil likes to putter with his hands. He's a member of the Village Voices, the Sailing Club, Village Home Owners Association and the CIC (Community Improvement Council). He has a daughter in Oriskany, NY and a son in Meridan, CT. AND he is the proud great grandfather of four!!

UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund, November 2008

If we were living in any other locale we might be able to feel the cool, crisp fall weather. Not so, Floridians, but none-the-less here's hoping your congregation is in full swing for the year. As this is being written I am preparing to go to Boston for the October UUA Trustee meeting. In the report written by the team of the Advocacy and Witness Programs much interesting information is to be found, both nationally and internationally.

The Advocacy and Witness team is made up of the UUA staff, located in Washington, D.C., whose main responsibility is to take our UU values out into the wider world. They work to make certain UU perspectives are part of public debates on the issues of the day through media advocacy, working in partnerships with other religious and secular organizations with the same viewpoints as ours, and by empowering local congregations to be equally involved.

The mission of the Advocacy and Witness team is to support and enhance the social justice endeavors and programs of UU congregations and to assist in increasing the collective UU and interfaith voice in public policy. UU and interfaith social justice campaigns and actions are promoted through a variety of resources to the congregational social action committee members through list serves, the UUA website, workshops, meetings, and consultation. The Advocacy and Witness team supports UUA public witness positions, the Journey Toward Wholeness program, and socially responsible investing initiatives. The team develops, provides, and promotes resources that help with effective process and "how to" information, issue-oriented educational information, campaign and action alerts, community organization, congregational best practices information, and UUA news and updates. Also the team solicits feedback that enables them to continually gather congregational stories and news for internal and external media, improve and update resources, and strengthen social justice efforts.

Meg Riley is the Director of the Advocacy and Witness Programs and can be reached at mriley@uua.org. I look forward to hearing from you at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727. May each one of you enjoy the blessings of Thanksgiving and the days beyond.

UUFMC

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County

512 Downers Grove

The Villages, FL 32162

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