

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons *Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen*
September 2008

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

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7280 SE 135th Street, Summerfield Fl. 34491-2510
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Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

September 7th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Zannelli

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith

Forum: Dr. Michael Gutter - Managing Your Finances During Tough Times

Greeters: Keith & Carole Carver, Catherine O'Neil, Rita Burrows

Service Leader: Robert Ridgard

Chalice Lighter: Jeanne Collins

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Robert Tucker - "Respecting Our Different Spiritual Types" This presentation will discuss the need for respecting our differences.

September 14th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Gore

Coffee & Hospitality: Carole Clarke

Forum: Barb Elgin from Florida Red & Blue will present. Florida Red and Blue is a bi-partisan campaign with the sole purpose of defeating so-called "marriage protection amendment."

Greeters: John & Jacky McCabe, Nathan Pautz

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Barbara Schuster

Speaker: Andrew Bernadin – "What is the Bible Really About?" Many people claim that the Bible is about the one-and-only loving God. While it is true that a number of verses can be culled from the many thousands in the Bible that reflect that theme, what might a more objective analysis reveal? By composing a list of words and word combinations, and then conducting a computerized search of the Bible to determine their frequency, Andrew Bernardin has come to a number of conclusions about what the Bible is really about. Curious? Attend and find out.

I imagine there's no heaven

It's easy if you try

No hell below us

Above only sky

John Lennon – born Oct 9 1940 "Imagine" (1971)

September 21st

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Andrea Coburn

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord

Forum: Karen Judd will discuss "Conflict Resolution" This speaker has not been confirmed, and if there is a change, it will be announced in the weekly news.

Greeters: Isabel Bligh & Gene Sessions, Gene & Barbara Klein

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Pete Jarmer

Speaker: Jim McIntosh – "Giving Love a Hand." It will deal with the many faceted nature of love and how it is perceived by each of us. What do we mean when we say, "I love my spouse"? I love my dog. I love cool weather. I love democracy. Are all of these really love? How does one go about loving their neighbor as themselves. Does, "God is Love" really mean anything?

September 28th

Building and Grounds Duty Person: George Crichton

Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster

Forum: Ann Barefield and Jim McIntosh will discuss "Covenant of Right Relations"

Greeters: Colleen Ridenour, Pat Wilson, Margaret Dawson, Rona Gold

Service Leader: Jim Mitchell

Chalice Lighter: Jacky McCabe

Speaker: Lloyd Dunham - "If We Honestly Listen, What Word Might We Hear?" This presentation deals with inter-religious dialogue as a path to peace - with particular focus on the nature of active listening.

Announcements

President's Message – Ann Barefield

Dear Members and Friends:

The Board of Trustees has been discussing how to develop a Covenant of Right Relations for our congregation. We want to take a grassroots approach and have everyone involved in the process. Therefore, Jim McIntosh will discuss the process in his presentation at the service on September 21st and I will lead a Forum discussion about it on September 28th. I hope all of you will attend and give your input to this important process. The following information will give you an overview of what a Covenant of Right Relations for a congregation involves and why we need one. We look forward to getting your input about what makes sense to you.

What is a Covenant of Right Relations?

A Covenant of Right Relations is an agreement among the people of this congregation that outlines the ways in which we intend to behave with one another. It is the promise we make to each other in this religious community and a commitment to the UU Principles. It is the response to the question: "What are the qualities we want to have as we live and work together?" It is a statement of how we intend to live out the mission and vision of this Fellowship. A covenant is a living document that can be changed by the members at a congregational meeting to meet new circumstances or changing conditions within the Fellowship.

Why do we need a covenant?

Covenants make it clear to us and to others how we intend to live out our purposes and principles, our mission and vision, in specific, concrete terms. It answers the question "How do we intend to behave so that we can create a welcoming community, a safe and special space to worship, work and play? Covenants are a good guide for us when we are working well together. However, conflict is inevitable when people live and work together in community. Therefore, it is important to have a Covenant of Right Relations that can remind us of the need to work through our difficulties in ways that are consistent with the values of the members and friends of our Fellowship.

How will the congregation create a working draft?

We will share this document with our members and friends and ask for their input at Separate Tables, UU and You, Leadership Team meeting, and the Forum. Jim McIntosh will speak on the topic on the third Sunday in September. After the input has been gathered from our members and friends, the Board will develop a working draft to share with you for more input. We will plan to vote on the document at the Congregational meeting in November 2008. If we are not ready to agree on a document at that time, we will put off the vote until we are ready.

What if I have questions about the covenant?

A member of the Board of Trustees will be happy to discuss this with you. The members are: Ann Barefield, Andrea Coburn, Pat Collins, Allie Gore, Wendy Griffith, Ed Hord, Jacky McCabe, Jim McIntosh, and Bob Zannelli.

What if our needs for the covenant change?

A covenant is considered to be a living/working document and can be reviewed by the congregation at any time in the future and adapted to fit changing needs and circumstances.

What should be in our covenant?

Please share your ideas about what should be in our covenant with any member of the Board. You can do this by sending an e-mail to all or one of the Board members or by making a telephone call or sending a letter to one of them. Their addresses are in the directory.

Leadership Team Meeting Date Change:

We need to change the date of the Leadership Team Meeting from Sunday, September 14, 2008 to Sunday, September 28, 2008 immediately after the service at 11:30 a.m. due to the Workshop on GA that is being held in Gainesville on September 14th. Please change your calendars. Sandwiches, drinks and a dessert will be provided.

September Board Meeting:

Please send your items for the September Board Meeting to Ann Barefield [abarefield@comcast.net] as soon as possible. She would like to have the agenda ready to publish in the newsletter (Uni-Verse) by August 28th.

Child Care – Mary Hord

“Child Care during the 10:30 service, will be available beginning in Sept. 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

September Separate Tables – Don Hundt

Next "Separate Tables" is Thursday, 18th September, 2008, at 11:30AM at Fuji Japanese Steakhouse in the Spruce Creek Shopping Center off of 441. The address is: 17860 SE 109th Ave #619, Summerfield. Phone 352 347 6119.

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.

Caring Committee - Yolanda Brod

*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.

Classes on Unitarian Universalism - Membership Committee

Plans are underway to offer classes in September for those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and those considering becoming members. You will have an opportunity to learn more about our history and principles. You will have a chance to ask questions and share the story of your journey. Contact Allie Gore at indigo8062@earthlink.net 352-547-9670 or Millie Mitchell jdmemitch@lightningspeed.net 352-307-4670

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? 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.

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.

UU Singles Group


The UU Singles Group will have lunch on Sunday, **August 31st** after the meeting. Place to be decided by the group. Rona

Name Tags – Andrea Coburn

The Membership Committee will be taking orders for magnetic, laminated name tags. Clip or pin versions are available.

Magnetic -\$4.00 Clip or pin - \$3.00

You can view samples and place your order at UUFMC on Sundays or contact Andrea Coburn 352-751-6673 andreacoburn@thevillages.net

	First Name Last Name
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County	

Fund Raising Committee:

We're looking for two people with great ideas! Fresh ideas are always needed to create successful fund raising events. If you'd like to help our fellowship grow, please contact Barbara Schuster, Phil Edgington or Wendy Griffith.

Fund Raiser: Sign up for our seminars and see if any one of them sparks your creative talents. If so, they'll become workshop where you are an active member learning new skills and sharing your work with your group. The first session is a free overview and orientation to the subject. Seminars begin this September. Sign-up sheets will be available every Sunday and you can also speak to the instructors; Peggy & Phil Wolfson, Ruth Deussen and Barbara Schuster. All seminars and workshops will be at the UUFMC. Seminar4 is free. Workshops are \$20/4 sessions Here's the Free Seminar and possible workshops schedule:

The Evolution of Eastern Philosophy & Religions-Ruth Deussen Seminar-Tues. 9/2 Noon-3PM; Workshops-same time and day: 9/9, 9/16, 9/23 & 9/30 Memoir Writing-Phil Wolfson Seminar-Wed. 9/3 1-3PM; Workshops-same time and day; 9/17,9/24, 10/1 & 10/8 Poetry Writing in the 21st Century-Peggy Wolfson Seminar-Wed. 9/3 1-3PM; Workshops-same time and day: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1 & 10/8 The Art of the Short Story-Barbara Schuster Seminar-Thurs. 9/4 10AM-Noon; Workshops-same time and day: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25 & 10/2

If you write poetry or want to write poetry, or aspire to write poetry or if you never intend to write a single word in your life, come to my class where we will discuss some of the most fabulous current poems in print. Or are you scared of poetry? I promise I only like poems and teach poems that I can understand!

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 har about? We can be cheaper than Lifelong Learning College. Contact Barbara Schuster.

Social Justice – Bob Zannelli

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.*

There will be a social Justice meeting on September 16 at 2 PM at the Fellowship. Interested members and friends are encouraged to attend.

Join the Social Justice Committee for a tour.

The social justice committee will be arranging a tour of the Interfaith Emergency Services Facility, time and date to be announced. All interested persons are encouraged to sign up. Here's a chance to see where our donations go and learn more about this interfaith outreach program.

Building & Grounds Committee

It would be appreciated if all members and guests coming to UUFMC depart the grounds through the field in the back of the property to the dirt driveway behind the large water tank; essentially making our driveway a one-way street. This will hopefully alleviate the over-usage of the front drive where the turf is being torn up.

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking for new members who would be interested in joining this dedicated group of volunteers who oversee the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful building and grounds. We would be especially interested in those who have a background in landscaping design and/or maintenance. Please contact any of the B&G Committee Co-chairs (Ed Hord, George Crichton, or Mike Donato) if you would be interested.

Speaking Opportunity – Bob Zannelli & Allie Gore

Would you like to speak at the main service on a Sunday? The following dates open December 14 & 28. In 2009 (through the end of our fiscal year), January 18th & 25th and March 8th. If you would like to be considered please contact Bob Zannelli 687-2227 and rbzannelli@aol.com or Allie Gore 861-4564 and indigo8062@earthlink.net. We will provide you the guidelines and discuss dates. Thank you.

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

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.

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.

September - UU & YOU! - Marion & Bill Marks

The wildly anticipated Hawaiian Luau is rescheduled for September 25th at 6PM. Are you available to help roast the pig, make the poi, crack the coconuts and clean the pineapples (Actual menu items may vary)? If you would like to help please contact Marian Marks dwsclaw@embarqmail.com or 347-1224.

Happy Birthday to the following UUFMC members

<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>
<i>Schuster, Barbara</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Collins, Pat*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Papin, Hyde*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Simpson, William*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Zannelli, Robert*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Kelley, Karen</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Paschke, Richard</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Hill, Katy*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Wilson, Patricia</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Peski, Mary</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Jacobson, Diane*</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Muncey, Frank</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Priestley, Elvis</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>2</i>

Getting to Know Us



George Green

George Green was born in a small fishing village on the Delaware coast. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17, during World War II, was trained as a photographer and served in the Pacific with the 31st Seabee Battalion. (In October, 1945 he landed in Kyushu, Japan and photographed that war torn country, including the city of Nagasaki). He returned home and graduated from the University of Delaware with BS & MS degrees in Bio-Sciences & Economics.

George spent 29 years with Shell Chemical Co. in International Marketing and Government Relations. After retiring from Shell he formed a Business Consulting Firm and retired again 17 years later. George has traveled in over 30 different countries.

George & his wife, Elizabeth, have three children and five grandchildren. They have known one another since Elizabeth was 7 years old. During George's working career they moved their family 12 times.

Active in civic affairs, George has held elected and appointed positions at Federal, State & Local government levels. As a volunteer, he has counseled small businesses, mentored Hispanic students and has been a Hospice caregiver.

George has been a Unitarian for over 50 years. He and Elizabeth live in The Villages where he currently serves as a member of The Villages Residents Advisory Council and a Director of The Villages Rotary Charitable Foundation.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, September 2008

Hopefully your congregational year is off to a good start. Certainly it was not an uneventful summer for all of us, in different ways. May all of us be blessed with a good and safe church year. I was browsing through past columns to make certain the topic this month is not one I wrote about in the past and believe it was not. However the subject of anti-oppression most certainly has been touched upon in the past. The JUUST Change Consultancy helps congregations work with a developmental process supporting the anti-oppression work already being done, and helping them identify their next steps. JUUST Change helps build on strengths, and with encouragement to expand a congregation's capacity to engage further in the work of justice. JUUST Change consultants help identify internal leaders and facilitate group processes in developing vision and mission, dialogue, problem-solving, team development, developing capacities for building partnerships in the larger community, and goal-setting/action planning.

The resources of JUUST Change include a broad range of experiences, grounded in institutional/power analysis of racism, heterosexism/homophobia, ableism, gender oppression, and classism; the intersection of oppressions; and wisdom about congregational change/transformation.

JUUST Change is a resource that is tailored to fit, and is able to meet congregations where they are and move forward and honors and supports the anti-oppression work congregations and districts are already doing. It was created because the UUA is committed to creative partnerships with congregations as our Association pursues living in a beloved community. Our faith is best manifested when we know ourselves to be vibrant, spirited, anti-oppressive, pluralistic communities. We are at our best through relationships that allow deep and honest sharing with one another about what matters most to us, including justice and standing strong against oppression.

Congregations accepted into the consultancy must commit to five days of consulting, one or two days on site. The cost to the congregation is scaled according to size and Annual Program Fund (APF) standing. There are two JUUST Change deadlines every year: May 15th for consultancies beginning in September of the same calendar year, and October 15th for consultancies that begin January of the following calendar year. If there are questions or you wish to initiate a consultancy contact Rev. Tracey Robinson-Harris (trobinsonharris@uua.org). If you wish to contact me with questions and concerns regarding my work as a Trustee please email me at jlund@uua.org or by telephone at (813) 931-9727. Best wishes for a great fall filled with interesting church services, activities, and events.

UUFMC

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Send your request to billcoburn@thevillages.net