

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons *Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen*
April 2009

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

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Telephone Number 352-245-7944

Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

April 5th

Speaker: Ron Vierling will present "Chasing Melville's Whale, Part Two – Ishmael in the Masthead"

Forum: Irene Keim will present "Green Sanctuary" Irene Keim is currently a member of the Board of Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. Irene and her husband, Bob, have been working with the National Board since 2005. They have been very active in local activities at the UU Church in the Pines in Brooksville and with the Florida District UUA. Irene and Bob are also active in the Volunteer Network for the UU Service Committee. Both are Florida natives and are very engaged with issues of environment and justice for our area.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Hord, Close: Coburn

A/V Operator: Bob Zanelli

Children's RE Program: Mary Hord

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord & Barbara Thomas

Greeters: Pat Wilson & Coleen Ridenour (9:15), Andrea Coburn & Char Hill (10:10)

Service Leader: Mary Ann Donato

Chalice Lighter: Muriel Bingley

Social Justice Moment: TBA

April 12th

Speaker: Reverend John Higgins will conduct a "Flower Service" The Flower Service was originated by the founder of Czechoslovak Unitarianism who was gassed by the Nazis on July 5, 1942. Of course our service will not be exactly as he organized it because we aren't sure how it worked. Nevertheless, we will be honoring his memory and using his words during the service.

Forum: Ann Barefield and Al Pinter will present "How to Experience and Enjoy Music" As one begins to comprehend the melodic, harmonic and rhythmic aspects of music, it becomes increasingly possible to perform it at an early level with expression. Come, be with us.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: McCabe, Close: Barefield

A/V Operator: Robert Ridgard

Children's RE Program: Marty McElheny

Coffee & Hospitality: Jacky McCabe & Diane Abbott

Greeters: Phil Edgington & Dick Chady (9:15), Barbara Thomas & Rita Burrows (10:10)

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Rodney Sheffer

April 19th

Speaker: Jim McIntosh will present “Believing in God is Not for Sissies” The basic subject is that even in Unitarian circles there is a wide range of beliefs. Some Unitarians have beliefs that vary little from traditional Christianity. God, as we all know, means many things to many people and often earns one critical review by both UUs and most of the many sects of Christianity.

Forum: Andrea Coburn will report on “Denominational Connections Committee” and Jim McIntosh will present the Remaining Fellowship Annual Committee Reports.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Prentice, Close: Kemp

A/V Operator: TBA

Children’s RE Program: Betsy Pintor

Coffee & Hospitality: PK Kobes & Bill Lowenberg

Greeters: Celia Friedenthal & Bill Denison (9:15), Diane&Patrick O’Connell (10:10)

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Cindy Kuckel

Social Justice Moment: TBA

April 26th

Speaker: Doug Worthington will present “Hope: A Source of Physical Strength with Implications for Spirituality” What role can a hopeful, positive attitude play in medical recovery? What does this attitude have to do with spirituality?

Forum: Gene Klein will present “Jewish Humor, Part Deux”

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Marciano, Close: Donato

A/V Operator: Jim Mitchell

Children’s RE Program: Pat Wilson

Coffee & Hospitality: Betsy Pinter & Fran Marciano

Greeters: Barbara Thomas & Judy Kemp (9:15) Wendy Griffith & Bob Kemp (10:10)

Service Leader: Pat Collins

Chalice Lighter: Joyce Mills

The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin – Celia Friedenthal

“Tis easier to prevent bad habits than to break them”

Announcements

President's Message

I received this message from a friend who sends me a column titled Motivational Moments each Monday. I hope you will find it helpful. Sometimes quitting can be a good thing. I just might try Ella's Care Kit and quitting. *Ann Barefield*

It's Ok to Quit -- Veraunda Jackson, Motivational Speaker

1. Quit arguing with people about the same old foolishness! Respect their position and keep it moving!
2. Quit telling people your secrets when you know they are not going to keep them! And if you keep telling them, then quit getting mad when they tell your secrets!
3. Quit trying to pull people on your journey who don't want to travel with you. Either they believe in you and value you...or they don't!
4. Quit complaining about things you can't and won't change!
5. Quit gossiping about other people! Minding our own business should be a full time job!
6. Quit blaming each other for things that in the big picture aren't going to matter three weeks from now! Talk solutions...and then implement them!
7. Quit eating things you know are not good for you! If you can't quit...eat smaller portions!
8. Quit staying in unhealthy relationships! It is not okay for people to verbally or physically abuse you! So quit lying to yourself! It is not okay to stay in the marriage for the children! Ask them and they will tell you that they really would prefer to see you happy and that the misery you and your spouse/partner are living with is affecting them!
9. Quit letting family members rope you into the drama! –Start telling them you don't want to hear it! Quit spreading the drama! Quit calling other relatives and telling them about your cousin or aunt! Go back to #5 minding your own business should be enough to keep you busy!
10. Quit volunteering for things that you aren't getting any personal fulfillment from anymore!

Quit volunteering for things and then failing to follow through with your commitment!

11. Quit settling and start making your dreams a reality! Quit being afraid and **START LIVING YOUR LIFE! CREATE THE LIFE YOU WANT!** If you want something different than what you have had in the past...you must quit doing what you have done before and **DO** something different! **JUST QUIT IT** and **START DOING** something to create the experience you want!

To: Ann Barefield

You and the members of your congregation are **invited** to join with the New Jewish Congregation of Temple Shalom at **the Annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah)**, on Thursday **April 23, 2009**, at the Church on the Square in The Villages. With clergy from five area churches participating, the program will run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Yom Hashoah is an internationally recognized day of remembrance, and is a day when caring people, both Jews and non-Jews, around the world join together as a reminder to protest genocide in any form.

From Ed Zigler

Board of Trustees Meeting: The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Wednesday, **April 8, 2009** at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Fellowship. We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Board. They are Dick Chady, treasurer and Cecelia Everist, member at large. Members and friends are welcome to propose items for the monthly agenda and to attend the meeting. Agenda items need to be shared with a member of the Board at least a week in advance of the meeting to get it on the agenda. We will sincerely miss Jacky McCabe and Dick Bassette who will be ending their terms on the Board **on April 1st** (beginning of our church year).

Tri-County Interfaith Group: The next meeting for the Tri-County (Lake, Marion and Sumter) Interfaith Group is set for Tuesday, **April 7, at 4:30 p.m.** at Temple Shalom, County Road 101, north of 466. Larry Wallace, President of the temple, will lead a presentation and demonstration of the Seder. The public is invited and there is no charge. If you wish to attend, please notify Rob

Michaels at (352) 750-0346 or ptownrob@comcast.net to reserve your seat.

Flower Service - April 12th

Members and friends are invited to bring flowers to this service. Pick one from your yard, find wild flowers in a field or ask a friend to allow you to pick one from their yard. The flowers will be used to beautify our gathering place and will be part of the service. If you have not experienced a Flower Service before join us for the first one in our new home. If you have experienced a Flower Service at another fellowship, church or society you will be interested to experience this one which is based, to the degree possible, on the original Flower Service. Remember to bring flowers. Thank you!

Fiscal Year End Financial Notes – Jim McIntosh & Dick Chady

As we approach the end of the fiscal year it is time to provide to you our members and friends a sketch of the finance status of the Fellowship. The 2008-2009 Budget called for spending of \$95,061 and revenues of \$82,500. This allowed for a shortfall of \$12,561.

The actual expenditures were \$85,957 and revenues were \$80,903. The actual shortfall was \$5,054, less than half of what was budgeted. The reason any shortfall was experienced was due to expenditures associated with the new building that were not anticipated in the original General Fund budget. Cleaning, security, mowing, water plant maintenance and a basic telephone bill that was higher than what was expected accounted for a big part of this.

The original mortgage on our new facility was \$422,500, a gift of \$5,000 brought that down to \$417,500 and fiscal year payments have lowered the principle down to \$409,200. The mortgage is paid to the Fellowship LLC, which is composed of a group of members, and friends who invested a total of \$422,500 to finance the building. Mortgage payments repay those investments.

The Fellowship maintains a money market account with Smith Barney, the present balance in that account is \$50,991. It is made up of \$10,198 that belongs to the 08-09 General Fund. This money will be held in reserve with the beginning of the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year.

\$11,631 is 2010 pledges paid in advance which will be available in the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year. \$8,000

is a building project fund. The Building Fund, per say, makes up \$16,868. \$3,128 is in a fund set aside to make future repairs on the building. The remainder is comprised of monies dedicated to specific fund such as memorials and charities.

In addition to the above monies two certificates of deposit totaling \$91,000 are invested with Regions Bank and Bank of America. These constitute reserves established at the 2008 Annual Congregational meeting and are for the purpose of assuring at least 2 years of mortgage payments and funding new building projects whose costs will be replaced by fund raising activities.

The coming fiscal year will be tight, pledges have fallen about \$9,000 short of our goal and the original budget has had to be cut to reflect that reality. The Board of Trustees has adopted a very prudent stance calling for the Fellowship to operate in 2009 - 2010 within its 2009 – 2010 income. It will take the cooperation of all of us to accomplish the high goals and ideals that we have for the Fellowship. It is a challenge that I am sure we are all up to.

CONNECTIONS GROUPS

Four Connections Groups are now up and running with enthusiastic members and energetic facilitators. The Monday afternoon group is closed but both the Tuesday morning and afternoon groups and the Friday afternoon group have room for several more people. If you would like to join one of these groups, please contact Wendy Griffith or Fran Marciano. Creating new groups is an ongoing process of the Connections program so if you're not able to consider one of the groups mentioned above, contact Wendy or Fran and express your interest in becoming part of a new group when it is formed.

Happy Birthday folks

04/06 Yolanda Brod*
04/27 Carole Carver
04/14 Carole Clarke*
04/11 Sylvia Kelch
04/25 Judy Lawrence*
04/15 Dan Peski*
04/21 Al Pinter
04/29 Jean Szwed*|
04/24 Barbara Thomas*

April Separate Tables will be at Spruce Creek South — **Bogies**, under new management. **April 16th at 11:30 a.m.** Tables for six to eight people, sandwiches and salads starting at \$8. Sign up by April 12th on the sheet on back table. Questions for Carolyn Denison, please email abcdenison@yahoo.com or call 352/245-0260.

The UU Singles Group – The Singles will meet on the last Sunday of the month (**April 26th**) after the service.

The UU Book Club – The Book Club will meet on the last Friday of the month, every month in our UUFMC. (**April 24th at 10:00 a.m.**)

UU & You will meet on Thursday, **April 23rd, at 6:00 PM** in our Fellowship room for a "My Favorite Things" Potluck and Social. If you're willing, be ready to share something about your favorite hobby (such as reading, music, woodcarving, painting, volunteering, etc.). Please Sign Up on the provided form in the Fellowship Room and plan to bring a dish that would serve 12 people.

Getting to Know us - Marianne Maurer (no picture available)

I was born in Dunkirk, NY and attended Ithaca College and the Albert Einstein Medical School in NYC for Physical Therapy. Being the independent person that I am, I loved my job in private practice in Syracuse the most, except for the horrible weather!

I sold my practice and my house on a Thursday and flew out the next day for sunny FL. I wake up in paradise every day. I love to golf or do any activity that keeps me outside. I am sitting here now with my doors open as comfortable as can be.

I am also happy to have discovered UU, which I never knew existed, and now feel a sense of community, hoping to develop long lasting friendships.

I am very proud of having lived most of my life alone which wasn't easy, but I'm either determined or maybe stubborn. But most of all I am proud of my two children. I raised them to be independent thinkers and doers. My son, living in Seattle with his family, is a very accomplished singer, pianist, surgeon, professional photographer for the

Seahawks and Sounders and whatever else he can fit in his busy life. My lovely daughter is a Graphic Designer with the same independent streak, so she works on her own, plays piano, is a horsewoman and loves her two dogs. She chose Arizona as she loves the heat like her mom.

UU Travel Club

Pete Jarmer and Rona are starting a UU Travel Club for those who are interested in traveling as a UU group to different places - cruises, Elderhostel, weekend trips, etc. We are meeting at the UU on **April 17th at 2:00** and will hear from representatives of AAA and Holland American cruise lines. After the presentation we will discuss future plans. If you have information about trips that you would like to present to the group please bring it to the meeting. Rona

New articles above Reprint articles below

Dark Energy and Dark Matter – Bob Zannelli

April 14 10 AM to noon

In these two lectures we will explore the geometry of the Universe and how this geometry relates to the total mass energy in the Universe. We will also learn how dark energy is believed to actually generate the acceleration of the expansion rate of the Universe.

April 28 10 AM to Noon

In this set of lectures we will learn about the two leading candidates for dark energy, the Zero point vacuum energy and a new strange substance called Quintessence. We will also learn about what has been described as the largest unsolved problem in theoretical physics, the cosmological constant problem, and how, what Einstein called his greatest blunder, may be the answer to the question, what is Dark Energy.

Humanist meeting – Bob Zannelli

April 21 6 PM

At this meeting we will discuss what Humanism really is, Rodney Sheffer will be presenting and leading the discussion.

25th Anniversary Year !

2009 is the 25th anniversary year of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County. Be watching the back of the order of service for articles which will provide historic information. We will bring this year to a close on October 18, 2009 with a Sunday Anniversary Service. Some of you have already been contacted. We are gathering information and interviewing members who were among those who were there at the beginning. If you have information about our history, you would like to share, please contact the Sunday Service Program Committee, Allie Gore, Judy Kemp, Mary Ann Donato or Rita Ridgard. Thank you!

Yoga exercise

Celia Everist will offer Yoga classes at UUFMC.

After much confusion I think we have finally established that we will be having Yoga classes these days and time:

Wednesday: **April 1st,** 9:30 AM

Wednesday: **April 8th,** 9:30 AM

Wednesday: **April 15th,** 9:30 AM

Sure hope all of you can make it! Celia

Dress for Less – Fund Raiser

On Thursday, April 2, 2009, Carolyn and Bill Denison will have another fabulous clothing sale at their home from 10-4. If you missed out on the last one, this is your time to "dress for less" in the hot fashions of the season. Please sign up on the sheet on the back table so Carolyn will know who to expect. Directions will be supplied as needed.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM



Members and friends are invited to provide any of the items found on the poster, in the back of the main room to help the Homeless Children and Youth Program. Unfortunately the needs continue to increase. Please bring your donations of food, toothbrushes, hair brushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, laundry detergent, hearty soups, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, canned chicken, tuna, etc. and leave them near the table where you see

the poster. The food donated, through last Sunday, has been delivered. When a school social worker identifies a needy child, and in turn a needy family, this program tries to meet the basic needs. Thank you for your generosity. The fifth Sunday collection, this month, will be used to purchase items for this program. Thank you!!

Sunshine Committee – Wendy Griffith & Yolanda Brod



We need volunteers for the Committee, particularly if you live in **Ocala or Top of the World area.** Also, if you hear that one of our friends or members is having a difficult time or illness please telephone Yolanda Brod at 352-751-5587 or Wendy Griffith 352-465-3450 or codysm695@aol.com The entire congregation stands ready to assist and support all our Fellowship. Cards, calls, or e-mails from us always lift their spirits.

Equal Exchange Coffee orders are in and can be picked up on Sunday. Through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project, farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust. For each pound of coffee, tea, or chocolate purchased through UU congregations, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to UUSC programs that support the human rights and social justice work of community-based cooperatives in coffee-growing regions.

COFFEE COMMITTEE

It's wonderful to see the numbers of people attending services on Sunday and enjoying the vibrant, enthusiastic coffee hour afterward. To support this very desirable situation, we need to call upon the congregation to give us more volunteers and more food! If we can add more volunteers, those already volunteering won't have to serve so frequently. Perhaps you can volunteer a week at a time, if you can't commit to being in the volunteers' rotation. The Fellowship cannot afford to fund the food for the coffee hour so donations of finger foods are always appreciated. Please sign up on the clip board to help weekly and to bring food Anyone willing to join the rotation of servers, please contact Wendy Griffith or Fran Marciano, Co-chairs of the Coffee Committee.

Getting to know us.....

Guests, members and friends who would like to meet informally with a member(s) to ask questions about Unitarian Universalism, and/or our Fellowship please contact Millie (352-307-4670 or jdmemitch@gmail.com or Allie 352-861-4564 or indigo8062@earthlink.net. We will be happy to meet and chat! Thank you.

Building Use

Is it important that any meeting or event planned in our UUFMC building must be scheduled on the UUFMC calendar. Just notify Andrea Coburn (andracoburn@thevillages.net) of your requirement.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, **April 2009**

Happy April, one and all. It has become a tradition for me write a column about General Assembly, and this year to encourage you to travel to Salt Lake City in June 24th to 28th for our annual Association meeting. It is an especially important occasion this year because we **honor Rev. Bill Sinkford** for his eight years of outstanding presidency of our Association, and we elect a new UUA President. Another reason to attend is to experience UU University which will be part of the programming during GA rather than the days preceding the Assembly.

Also it is an important year for the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). The invitation is with congregations and districts to take our current topic of concern and face it, reflect upon it, learn about it, respond to it, and take action on it. The current CSAI adopted at the 2006 GA started with the question: "...should the UUA reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war...and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through non violent means". This year's Assembly will vote to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, Peacemaking.

The Ware Lecture this year will be delivered by Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University. She is an author whose academic research is inspired by a desire to investigate the challenges facing contemporary black Americans and to better understand the multiple, creative ways that African Americans respond to these challenges.

In addition to worship services, events, and exhibits, a wealth of great programming is being sponsored by the General Assembly Planning Committee. All promise to provide a rich experience for everyone who attends. There will be much diversity in programming to please the interests of attendees including: Facilitator training in Small Group Ministry, Dance as a Spiritual Experience, Building Unity between different racialized ethnic groups, Confronting the Top-heavy Distribution of U.S. Wealth, and much more.

And last but not least is beautiful, vibrant Salt Lake City. The city is a vacation destination. All around are accesses to natural recreation, remarkable history, warm hospitality, and more diversity than Salt Lake City is known for, with a booming Hispanic community and a major locale for the resettlement of displaced people...including several hundred from Hurricane Katrina. There is a light rail system in the convention district and the airport is mere minutes away from the Salt Palace Convention Center, where most GA events will be held.

I encourage you to check out generalassembly@uua.org for more information. You know I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.



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UUFMC
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