

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen
January 2009

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

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Forum 9:30 **Sunday Services 10:30**

January 4th

Speaker: Robert P. Tucker, PhD - "What a Difference a Day Makes" This presentation will trace the tradition of celebrating New Year's Day and the variety of meanings it has.

Forum: The Social Justice Committee will present a Video presentation

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bill Dennison

A/V Operator: Jim Swickard

Children's RE Program: Carole Clarke, Mary Hord, Fran Marciano or Joyce Mills

Coffee & Hospitality: Carole Clarke & Fran Marciano

Greeters: Betsy & Al Pinter (9:15), Mary & Ron Nelson (10:10)

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Carolyn Denison

Social Justice Moment: Andrea Coburn

January 11th

Speaker: Jim McIntosh will present "Doubting Thomas, The Little Man That Wasn't There"

Doubt has always been both discouraged and one of the most important tools that we have. The philosophy of Thomas was one of practicality which led him to doubt that Jesus had appeared to the other disciples on an occasion when Thomas was absent. This had led main line Christians to doubt that Thomas preached. Thomas was probably a Unitarian without knowing it.

Forum: Tom Gutter will discuss "Reverse Mortgages"

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Bob Gore
A/V Operator: Robert Ridgard

Children's RE Program: Carole Clarke, Mary Hord, Fran Marciano or Joyce Mills

Coffee & Hospitality: Jacky McCabe & Wendy Griffith

Greeters: Pat Wilson & George Green (9:15), Ann Barefield & Margaret Dawson (10:10)

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Rodney Sheffer

January 18th

Speaker: Ann Barefield will present: "From Slavery to the Presidency: A Brief History of Africans in America" This talk will be a review of what has happened in the lives of Africans in America from their arrival on the slave ships to what is happening to them today. The speaker will share some of the music that was so much a part of their lives during slavery and throughout their history in America.

Forum: "Planned Parenthood" will be represented.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Don Hill

A/V Operator: Bob Zannelli

Children's RE Program: NA

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord & Betsy Pinter

Greeters: Bonnie & Cory Pearson(9:15), Joan Raimundo & Barbara Schuster (10:10)

Service Leader: Robert Ridgard

Chalice Lighter: Marty McElheny

Social Justice Moment: Delphine Herbert

January 25th

Speaker: Cindy Kuckel will present: "Ready, Set, Grow" Personal development and the foundation of a nurturing congregation.

Forum: TBA

Building and Grounds Duty Person: George Crichton

A/V Operator: George Crichton

Children's RE Program: Carole Clarke, Mary Hord, Fran Marciano or Joyce Mills

Coffee & Hospitality: P K Kobes & Bill Lowenberg

Greeters: Joyce Mills, Diane Abbott (9:15), Louise & Mark Colussi (10:10)

Service Leader: George Erickson

Chalice Lighter: Bill Marks

Quotes - From Celia Friedenthal

Happiness is nonetheless true happiness because it must come to an end, nor do thought and love lose their value because they are not everlasting. Bertrand Russell, born May 18, 1872; "What I believe" (1925)

Announcements

President Message for January 2009 Uni-Verse

Happy New Year to all Members and Friends of UUFMC!! May this be a very special year for you and those you love.

Connections Groups - As we begin this New Year, we will also be offering a new program for our members and friends. The program is called Connections and the co-chairpersons for the program are Wendy Griffith and Fran Marciano. Bob Barefield was instrumental in forming a committee several years ago to develop what was then called Covenant Groups, and he would be very pleased to know that the small group program is being implemented. Because of his counseling background, he believed that small sharing groups could help organizations remain vital and healthy as they get larger.

The steering committee, made up of the co-chairs and Allie Gore and I, has been working to develop

the guidelines for the program with the help of the UUA resources. Allie has recently found it necessary to resign due to her very busy schedule. A Seed Circle, composed of the people who have agreed to serve as facilitators of the Connections groups, has been meeting monthly as a small group to practice the skills necessary to lead the groups. The Connections groups will begin meeting in March. You will hear from Wendy and Fran after the first of the year about joining a group.

A Connections group is a small relational group made up of six to twelve people who meet regularly to establish and nurture themselves in their own beloved community. Connection groups provide an opportunity for group members to build strong relationship with each other and with the larger organization of which the small group is a part.

Connection groups encourage people to talk, learn, work, and play together over time. Members may tell their life stories, offer support, and engage in work to serve the larger community. Connection groups offer expanding opportunities for growth, caring and connection within the congregation. The groups offer caring affiliative networks, mutual responsibility, leadership opportunities, and a way for people to build and strengthen their communities.

In a Connections group, people experience a relational individuality, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. People experience themselves and each other as part of the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part. Together, people establish communities, which embody the values of justice, democracy and human dignity. Each person is treated equitably. Each has a voice and is heard. Each person is respected for his or her own intrinsic humanity. The defining purpose of a Connections group is to bring people into right relationship with each other, the Fellowship, and with the larger world.

I hope each one of you will decide to join a Connections group in March. Your participation will help you be a more integral part of the Fellowship and you will help keep our Fellowship strong by your participation.

Portions of this letter were adapted from A Covenant Group Source Book

January Board Meeting: The Board will meet on Wednesday, **January 7, 2009** at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Fellowship. Members are always welcome to attend the meeting.

Congregation Meeting: The Congregational meeting to consider the bylaws will be held on Sunday, **January 11, 2009** immediately following the service. Please review the attached bylaws prior to the meeting.

Separate Tables – Carolyn Denison

Separate Tables, a social monthly gathering, open to all members and friends, will be held at 11:30 AM on Thursday, **January 15th**, at the **Stonecrest Gated Community Restaurant**, Hwy 441 north of Wal-Mart, Summerfield. The menu includes salads and sandwiches from \$7 to \$10.

Please **sign up on the table at the back of the sanctuary** by **January 11th**.

Sunshine Committee – Wendy Griffith & Yolanda Brod

Phil Wolfson

It is my sad duty to inform you that Phil Wolfson died this morning. No knowledge of the arrangements is known at this time.

On Tuesday, December 30, **Pete Jarmer** will undergo spinal surgery at Monroe Hospital in Ocala. It will be appreciated if someone will add Pete's name to the book on Cares and concerns so all can send their thoughts to her. Also, if anyone wants to communicate with her, her email and home address are:

petenrayj@usa2net.net

431 Maple Tree Dr., Apt. 201 Altoona, Fl. 32702

From - **Phil Edgington** via Ruth Prentice - I haven't been to church for the last two Sundays and am not sure exactly when I can return. I did something to my back and can barely walk. I'm receiving Ultra Sound for it but improvement is slower at our young age.

Teri Blackshaw, one of our members, has had spinal surgery and is at home dealing with some of the complications from the surgery. Teri is unable to leave her home for now.

Katy Hill, another member, fell in September but her leg has now become infected. She is at home while healing.

Teri, Phil, Phil, and Katy would like to hear from you.

Our Festive Affair !

Thanks to all who contributed to our 2008 Holiday Extravaganza! Maybe you raised your voice in song, read a poem, designed a DVD, played a musical instrument or showed your dogs talent! **WE THANK YOU!** Maybe you ran the AV equipment, helped drag out tables and set up chairs. **WE THANK YOU!** Maybe you spread the table cloths, made coffee, or brought a main course or a dessert to share. **WE THANK YOU!** Maybe you collected the garbage and carted it home for disposal. **WE THANK YOU!** Maybe you helped in the kitchen getting food to the tables or cleaning up after us. **WE THANK YOU!** Maybe you took the tablecloths home to launder or the plastic ware home to wash. **WE THANK YOU!** Many hands make the work load lighter. Happy Holidays and we thank you "each and every one!"

Building & Grounds Committee

We have scheduled a Building & Grounds Committee meeting for **1/14/2009**, at 2:00pm,

The UU Singles Group will meet after the Doxology in the Fellowship lobby on **December 28th**. We will pick out a place to have lunch and conversation Rona

The UU Book Club - no activities available at time of publication.

Writers Group

Due to the holidays, The Writers' Group is scheduled for **10-noon January 8th..**

CRUISERS:

If you haven't already done so, you need to go on line to Holland America to get your Boarding Pass. To do this, you will need to have your booking number. You will find this number at the top of your payment receipt. If you cannot locate it, call Anita at AAA or Pete Jarmer.

As you know, the bus leaves Spanish Springs Station at **6:30 a.m. on January 18**. We will need to be there at 6:00 a.m. For those of you in the Villages who will need transportation to and from the bus, Anita had these suggestions: 1- Park your car in the Villages. Tell a friend or neighbor where the car is parked and give him or her a key so they can get it and park it in your or their drive. This way, they can avoid getting out of bed early and can pick your car up any time during the day of leaving. They can put it back any time during the day of our return.

2-The normal opening time for the Village Taxi is 7:30 A.M. They will pick you up earlier if you will call them about a week before our leaving date. You can also arrange a pick up at that time.

Anita is planning to have a meeting of all cruisers at AAA after she receives the documents which probably will be early January.

Thanks and good cruising. Pete

The Stewardship Committee

The stewardship committee will be serving a "Thank You Breakfast" to honor those who are supporting the programs and service of UUFMC with their gifts and pledges.

It will be on **January 11th** before the forum. We will begin serving pancakes at 8:15A.M.

E-mail me (or call our Cell) with ?s or concerns. We are taking our lap top to Rochester with us. We leave this Wednesday.

Thank you. Jacky McCabe Cell 352-250-6411
jmccabe24@embarqmail.com

Coffee Committee

The Coffee Committee thanks everyone who has volunteered. We really appreciate the four new members who have offered to join the Committee and those who have jumped in to help serve and clean-up. Your help makes it a lot easier for all concerned. Thank you again.

January 13 "Dark Matter, Dark Energy: The Dark Side of the Universe" 10 AM to Noon. – Bob Zannelli

We continue our exploration of Dark Matter and Dark Energy. In the lectures, "Galaxies and Clusters" and "Gravitational Lensing" we will see how cosmologists know that 25 percent of the Universe is made from Dark Matter, a mysterious substance whose nature remains to be determined.

January 27 Postponed until February due to the UUFMC cruise "Dark Matter Dark Energy : The Dark Side of the Universe" 10 AM to Noon. – Bob Zannelli

In the lectures "Atoms and Particles" and "The Standard Model of Particle Physics" we will learn about the basic "stuff" that makes up everything we can see, smell and touch. Also covered will be how all the known forces of nature work based on our best understanding of these fundamental building blocks of physical reality, the Quarks, Electrons, Neutrinos and the force particles, the Weak and Strong Gluons and our well known Photon, the fundamental quanta of light, radio waves and radiant heat.

Humanist Meeting, January 13 at 6 PM

We will be viewing a thirty minute Video on Einstein, "Cosmic Religion and Jewish Identity" to help us engage the question, Can Humanism be a Religion? As preparation for this topic everyone is encouraged to read William R Murry's "Reason and Reverence, Religious Humanism for the 21st Century" where the case is made that Religious

Humanism is not an oxymoron formulation.
Bob Zannelli



Walk the Talk

Please note the new graphic "walking feet". From now on this graphic will alert you to an item from UUFMC's Social Justice Committee. For this first item we would like to invite members and friends, committed to social justice through action, to join the Social Justice Committee. The committee meets on the **third Tuesday monthly, 2:00PM, at the church**. Do any of these areas interest you? The Homeless Children and Youth Program in Marion County, Green Sanctuary (check out "The Seventh Principle Project" online; the Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence Shelter; Interfaith Emergency Services. Come to the meeting and learn more.

Would YOU like to help?

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 . Assist visitors as needed, collect offering, take microphones to participants during discussion and reflection period after the presentation (Sign up sheets on the tables in the rear of the room.

Questions: Carolyn: 307-4682 or abcdenison@yahoo.com)

- **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 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. (Wendy 465-3450 or codysm695@aol.com .

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). Something to reflect the beauty of the seasons. Contact members of the Program Committee. Mary Ann Donato Judy Kemp, or Allie Gore.

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.

Happy Birthday to the following UUFMC members & Friends

01/06 Garman* Tom |
01/10 Kuckel* Cindy |
01/11 Mills* Joyce |
01/17 Gore* Bob |
01/17 Levine Mark |
01/20 Leadbetter Ellie |
01/22 Kemp* Judy |
01/22 Mauer* Marianne |
01/24 Bligh* Isabel |
01/28 Crichton* George |
01/29 Klein* Barbara |
02/01 Ridenour* Colleen |

Request for Biographies

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

Getting to Know Us



Joan Raimundo

I grew up in N.E. Pa. along the Susquehanna River. After I graduated as an R.N. from the Robert Packer Hospital / Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Pa., my nursing career took me to six different states including two years as a 1st LT. in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps.

I settled in Rochester, MN. for 30 plus yrs. prior to retiring to Fl. in 2002. While in MN. I married Dr. Hugo Raimundo, raised two children, a son and daughter, discovered the UU Church after being a Presbyterian since childhood, and became a Mayo Clinic employee. Following a divorce after 18 yrs. of marriage I went to the University of MN. and graduated as a Chemical Dependence Practitioner. I was employed by Mayo Clinic for the next 15 yrs. As a CDP working with adults, adolescents, and families with alcohol and drug problems.

For the entire time I lived in MN. I belonged to First UU Church of Rochester. I served on many committees and enjoyed singing in the choir for many years.

Since coming to Ocala in 2005 my interests include visiting children and grandchildren in Pennsylvania and California, square dancing, Minnesota Social Club, companionship of friends, and least I forget the Minnesota Vikings and Twins.

UU Northeast (FL) Cluster!

Exciting news from our UU Northeast (FL) Cluster! Please read the following! Andrea Coburn and John Deckman, (Denominational Connections)

From: Joyce Levi [mailto:j-levi@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2008 12:43 AM
To: UU Northeast Cluster
Subject: January cluster message for you, your UU newsletter, or bulletin board

Oprah Winfrey put it this way: "Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."

A rare joint meeting of the Atlantic Coast Florida clusters will take place on Saturday, March 14, in Vero Beach. Mark your calendars now! You don't want to miss this one. The featured speaker will be one of UUA's "stars" – Meg Riley, director of UUA's worldwide Advocacy and Witness Program. She'll be talking about gender issues and about greening our sanctuaries.

Friday night home hospitality will be arranged in Vero for those traveling more than two hours. If you're spending over four hours on the road each way, two nights of home hospitality will be offered.

The Northeast Cluster Agenda Committee is composed of Reverend Bud Murphy <revbudmurphy@earthlink.net>, Bob Mohr <rmohr23456@aol.com>, and Reverend Jack Higgins <jhiggins35@cfl.rr.com>. If you have any great ideas for an exciting yet comfortable March agenda, now's the time to contact a committee member.

An extremely important Northeast Cluster business meeting will be held following the Saturday workshops. An election of officers is vital for cluster leadership, April 2009 through June 2010. The Nominating Committee – Dottie Mann <doromom@gmail.com>, Judy Southard <Jsouthard4@cfl.rr.com>, and Bob Zannelli <RBZannelli@aol.com> – invites suggestions for candidates.

Do you know someone with the qualifications and willingness to serve as president, vice president, secretary or treasurer? Share your ideas with Dottie, Judy or Bob as soon as possible.

One final pithy quote from journalist/author Edward Payson Powell (1832- 1915): "The Old Year has gone. The New Year has taken possession of the clock of time. All hail the duties and possibilities of the coming twelve months!"

Grab onto the possibilities of a memorable March meeting with Meg. Enter the date on your new 2009 calendar right now. We have another chance to "get it right."
Happy holidays!
Peace and love...
A Cluster Colleague

DCC News



The Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales are candidates for UUA president.

The race to succeed the Rev. William G. Sinkford as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is officially underway. Two ministers—the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales—announced in January that they are running for the office, which Sinkford will leave at the end of his second term in June 2009.

www.laurelhallman.com

<http://moralesforuapresident.org/>

Peter Morales has requested our board nomination and we voted to do so at the December Board Meeting. If Laurel Hallman requests board nomination we will undoubtedly do so. The congregation will have the opportunity to nominate candidates as will.

Nominating a candidate is often confused with endorsing a candidate for a position. The nomination process helps to fulfill the UUA requirements for placing a person's name on the ballot. Congregations may nominate multiple candidates.

Your DDC co-chairs – Andrea Coburn and John Deckman

UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund, January 2009

I hope you experienced a joyful holiday season and are ready for a new year. In December I wrote about Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) and committed to continuing with information about this valuable organization in January. CBCO has the capacity to change UUism by deepening congregational involvement in social justice in a way that enables us to really understand and work for social change in community with others. Also CBCO has the unique ability to increase congregations become multicultural and racially diverse, and can develop and train leaders whose skills can enrich congregational life.

Although CBCO historically has been predominantly Christian it can be more effective in claiming moral authority if it represents a broad, diverse base of religious groups. CBCO knows and operates on the basis that there is power in numbers and UU membership signals to other non-Christian congregations that they are welcome and encouraged to become CBCO members.

The process of joining includes an initial exploration of CBCO with meetings between the minister and key leaders and a CBCO organizer. A core group of 5 to 20 members is formed and they continue with research and educating the congregation. The core group is trained to lead an initiative. The core group is trained to conduct one-to-one meetings, house meetings, and to chair committee meetings. While

these activities are taking place there continues to be support-building for CBCO within the congregation. It is also essential to have clergy support for this work. If the congregation decides to join there is continued process of relationship building within the congregation. Issues to address are identified, researched, and solutions developed by holding seminars with experts, meetings with public/private officials, and talking with people who are knowledgeable about the issue. Once the issue is resolved, the CBCO group moves on to a different issue. Through all the steps the core group and clergy take leadership roles by speaking at, organizing, running, and hosting large and small meetings and attend training on several levels to develop their leadership skills.

Benefits from participation are numerous: more and deeper relationships among congregants and with members of other faith traditions, increased lay leader involvement in congregational work and public action, more effective social justice work, building interfaith and interracial relationships, and bringing new people in new ways. Congregations will reap the rewards of participation despite the work involved, and realize the benefits of participation far outweigh the costs.

I could write much more but space prohibits, so suggest you contact Fred Seidl, UU Organizer and CBCO Consultant (fseidl@uua.org) or Susan Leslie, Director of the UUA Office for Congregational Advocacy and Witness (sleslie@uua.org). They would be glad to hear from you...as would I, at jlund@uua.org. Happy New Year one and all!



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