

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen
May 2009

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

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

Email: uufmc@comcast.net Web <http://www.uufmc.org>

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

Telephone Number 352-245-7944

Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

May 3rd

Speaker: Robert Tucker – “Are You a U.U.U., Too?” In his sermon, “Are You a U.U.U., Too?” retired ethics professor and U.U. minister, Dr. Robert P. Tucker, will explore the ethical theory of Utilitarianism and will argue that, because it fits so well within the Principles of Unitarian Universalism, all of us ought to be Unitarian Universalist Utilitarian’s!

Forum: John Beall will present “Should We Decriminalize the Recreational Use of Drugs?”

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

A/V Operator: Al Reeves

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

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith & Barbara Thomas

Greeters: P K Kobes & Bill Lowenberg (9:15), Louise & Mark Colussi (10:10)

Service Leader: Mary Ann Donato

Chalice Lighter: Dick Chady

May 10th

Speaker: John Higgins -- “The Rest of the Story” This will be the description of a mother who sacrificed everything for her family and was rewarded by her son’s contribution to American Society. I will ask the congregation to guess or identify the name of the mother.

Forum: Doug Worthington will do a presentation on “Email Types” People who send and/or receive email tend to fall into certain categories because of how they approach this communications tool. What type are you?

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: McCabe/Deckman, Close: Zannelli

A/V Operator: Bob Zannelli

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

Coffee & Hospitality: Jacky McCabe & Hope Deckman

Greeters: Joyce Mills & Ken Loebel (9:15), Barbara Thomas & Pat McIntosh (10:10)

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Bill Denison

Social Justice Moment: Andrea Coburn – On peace statement

May 17th

Speaker: Jim McIntosh -- "The Role Of Morality and Ethics in Our Everyday Lives.". These two subjects have occupied the minds of philosophers since the first philosopher philosophized. How important are they really to people through the ages and especially to us today. What do we expect for our fellow person, what do we have a right to expect?

Forum: Open Discussion

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

A/V Operator: Robert Ridgard

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

Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster & Mary Hord

Greeters: John & Lucia Beall (9:15), Karl Sheffer & Dick Bassette (10:10)

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Don Hill

May 24th

Speaker: Catherine Giordano – "Do-Overs, Mulligans, and What-ifs". (It is about the universal longing for do-overs and why we need to accept our choices.)

Forum: Terry Carpenter will do a presentation on "Medicaid Planning"

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

A/V Operator: Hal Sands

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

Coffee & Hospitality: Betsy Pinter & Betsy Gilleland

Greeters: Bill & Carolyn Denison (9:15) Ann Barefield & Jim Urell (10:10)

Service Leader: Dick Chady

Chalice Lighter: Pat McIntosh

Social Justice Moment: TBA

May 31st

Speaker: Gene Klein "Did the Holocaust Actually Occur?" Holocaust survivor Gene Klein will talk about his concentration camp and slave labor camp experiences during 1944 and 1945.

Forum: Michael McDaniel "Planning Ahead for All the Right Reasons"

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

A/V Operator: Roy Love

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

Coffee & Hospitality: P K Kobes & Bill Lowenberg

Greeters: Betsy and Gil Gilleland (9:15) Wendy Griffith & Barbara Thomas (10:10)

Service Leader: Doug Worthington

Chalice Lighter: Ruth Deussen

The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin – Celia Friedenthal

“Talking against religion is unchaining a tiger, the beast let loose may worry his deliverer”

President’s Message:

The Past Few Months at the Fellowship

Several of the members have been involved in monitoring a situation regarding the property north of our building and east of the railroad tracks. In 2005, the 17+ acre property was approved as industrial property by the County Commissioners. The owner has recently requested that it be rezoned. There was and is concern that the owner could use 135th Street as the access to the land. There was also a concern about what would be put on the land. The Rezoning Committee had a split vote and sent it to the commissioners without a recommendation. Bill Denison did an excellent job when he spoke at that meeting along with some of our neighbors. Although Bill, John Deckman, and Shirley Loebel all spoke at the commissioners’ meeting on April 21, 2009, the commission passed the rezoning request 4 in favor of rezoning to 1 opposed. They indicated that the owner would not be allowed to use 135th Street for access and would have to come back to them with his plans for the property. Although the rezoning passed, we did support our neighbors and stood with them on opposition to the rezoning change. The following UUFMC members attended the meeting on April 21st: Bill and Carolyn Denison, Hope and John Deckman, Ken and Shirley Loebel, Mark and Louise Colussi, Jim McIntosh, John Beall and Ann Barefield.

The Board of Trustee has been involved in Strategic Planning sessions for the past three months with Gary Henderson. He has worked with numerous groups in this area to help them plan strategically, including the Marion County Democratic group. He will also be facilitating an all-day retreat for the Board and Leadership Team in July. We are very grateful to Gary for providing his expertise free of charge.

The Building and Grounds Committee under the leadership of the co-chairs Ed Hord and Dick Bassette and the landscaping subcommittee are doing a great job with the landscaping. Please let them know how much you appreciate all they are doing to beautify our surroundings.

Co-chairs of the Sunday Service/Program Committee, Doug Worthington and Allie Gore, along with the members of that committee continue to provide excellent speakers for our Sunday services. They work very hard to provide variety and to meet the diverse needs of our members and friends. We owe them a big “Thank You” for all they do.

In the coming months, I will be highlighting the work of the committees and trying to keep you posted about what is going on in the Fellowship.

Ann

Tri County Interfaith Group: *The next meeting of TCIG will be **May 5, 2009** at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County. The church is in Summerfield, Florida on 135th Street. Richard Matwyshen will present a program on “The Power of Forgiveness” – a DVD. All members of the Fellowship are invited to attend.*

May Board Meeting: The May Board meeting will be on Wednesday, **May 6th** in the Conference Room at the Fellowship at 2:00 p.m. All persons having items for the Board agenda are asked to send it to Ann Barefield at abarefield@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Strategic Planning Session for the Board: The next Strategic Planning session for the members of the Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, **May 20th** in the Conference Room at the Fellowship at 2:00 p.m. This is a make-up session for the meeting that was canceled on April 22, 2009.

May Separate Tables for Thursday, **May 21st**, will be at the Ocala Ale House at 11:30 AM, 305 SE 17th Street. Directions later. Sign up by May 17th on the sheet on back table. Questions for Carolyn Denison, please email abccdenison@yahoo.com or call 352/245-0260.

The UU Book Club – The Book Club will meet on the last Friday of the month, every month in our UUFMC. (**May 29th** at 10:00 a.m.)

UU & You will meet on Thursday, **May 28th**, 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.

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 **May 8th** at 2:00 p.m. If you have information about trips that you would like to present to the group please bring it to the meeting.
Rona

Humanist meeting – Bob Zannelli

Sunday **May 17th** 1:30 p.m. Bob Zannelli will be leading the discussion.

Hymnals

In response to members and friends requesting more hymnals for use during the Sunday service the Sunday Service Program Committee is taking prepaid orders. Each hymnal costs \$30.00 including shipping and handling. We would like to have an order of ten prepaid before placing the order. Checks are to be made out to UUFMC with the word "hymnal" placed in the memo section. Checks can be given to Dick Chady, treasurer, or any member of the Sunday Service Program Committee (Mary Ann Donato, Bob Zannelli, Allie Gore, Doug Worthington, Judy Kemp, Dick Chady, Ruth Deussen.) Thank you.

DCC

On May 10th and May 17 all voting members of UUFM will be given an opportunity to indicate their preference for the UUA presidential candidates, Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman. Members will also be able to indicate their views on the proposed changes to UU Principles and the suggested Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. Please avail yourself of the informational materials available in the DCC folder. More detailed information can be found at www.uua.org (Follow links to General Assembly)

Three delegates from our congregation will represent us with their votes. If you would like to be a delegate please contact Andrea Coburn, John Deckman or Joyce Mills.

Name Tags – orders for new name tags will be taken May 10 and May 17th.

Dark Energy and Dark Matter – Bob Zannelli

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.

May 5 10AM to Noon

Dark Energy and Dark Matter, The Dark Sector of the Universe.

In these lectures we will be taking a hard look at the observational success of Einstein's theory of General Relativity. While the evidence for Dark Energy and Dark Matter seems overwhelming based on many different observations all pointing to the same conclusion, we have not so far found any Dark Matter or Dark Energy in our detectors. All the evidence for Dark Matter and Dark Energy is based on the gravitational effects of the Dark Sector. Could Einstein have been wrong? We will explore this question in the first lecture. In the second lecture we go back to the very beginning of time. How did the Big Bang really happen? What forces were at work? We will need to explore these questions in our quest to understand Dark Energy and Dark Matter.

May 19 10 AM to Noon

Dark Energy and Dark Matter, The Dark Sector of the Universe

Our best idea on how to make Gravity into a Quantum family is Super String Theory. And we know that we live in a Quantum Universe so any ultimate theory of gravity must be a Quantum theory. We will therefore explore the wonders of string theory and see what startling claims this theory makes for the cosmos. Prepare for extra Dimensions and hidden worlds. And speaking of Hidden worlds, in the second lecture we address the question, are there other Universes. What lies beyond where we can see? Can we ever know anything about other Universes if they exist?

“Marti Bassette’s Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 13.

Dick and Marti’s four children will be here as well as most of the 12 grandchildren as well as 12 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will begin at 1:30 followed by the Memorial Service at 2:00.

Please contact Yolanda Brod 751-5587 if you would like to assist.”

Building & Grounds -The Landscaping in the front of the Fellowship should be completed prior to May. It will take a while for the plants to grow to the size that will provide the cover of the air conditioners. The water lines to the refrigerators in the kitchen for making ice cubes were provided by Bob and Judy Kemp. A date will be set for help to weed the plants on the perimeter of our property.

Social Justice Fifth Sunday of May. Our congregation, like many Unitarian Universalist Congregations take the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to social justice by “donating the plate” on Fifth Sundays. That means all money in the collection basket not otherwise designated will be given to a specific charity. On Sunday, May 31, the Fifth Sunday collection will be for the Homeless Children and Youth Program of Marion County. Thank you for your continued generosity.

UUA Presidential Candidates web sites

Also there is a UUA site where they answer a question in detail each month. They have also made debates available vis the web.

Rev. Peter Morales - www.moralesforuuapresident.org

Rev. Laurel Hallman - www.hallmanforuuapresident

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Sue McGuire, liaison to the Homeless Children and Youth Program expressed grateful appreciation for donations received from members and friends of UUFMC. The food and personal item donations have been distributed. A portion of the March fifth Sunday collection was used to purchase additional food items and clothes for elementary age children. At Sue's request our Social Justice committee representative is responding to her requests for food and clothing as specific needs are identified. The Social Justice Committee joins with Sue and the recipients of the donations in thanking our members and friends for their generosity. Thank you!

New articles above

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

Reprint articles below

Sunshine Committee – Yolanda Brod & Wendy Griffith



We need volunteers for the Committee, particularly if you live in **Ocala or Top of the World area.**

However, we also need members generally for the present and future plans.

What do we do?

1. Visit the sick that are homebound or hospitalized.
2. Make telephone calls
3. Send notes and cards
4. Deliver meals, soup etc.
5. Provide transportation
6. Shop for and deliver groceries or medications
7. Assist in planning or coordinating memorial services
8. Participate in planning for “showers” for recent widows or widowers, with their specific friends.

You can do any or all of the above. The members and friends really do appreciate the support. The tasks are very gratifying.

*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*

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.

*For those wishing to donate money to the Lazarus Free Medical Clinic please send all donations to ;
LFMC - Catholic Charities of Central Florida
1819 N. Semoran Blvd.
Orlando FL 32807*

Game night

*Dick Bassette and Rona Gold are organizing a Game Night on the **April 29th from 7- 10 pm.***

There will be a wide variety of games including your favorite card games (pinochle, Mahjong, bridge, Skip-Bo, etc.), board games (Sequence, Cribbage, Triple Yahtzee, Dominoes, Pictionary, Caroms, etc.). In addition, we invite you to bring your favorite game. If you do not know how to play a particular game, there will be someone to instruct you..

Also Dick will be setting up the Wii to do bowling, golf, downhill skiing, etc.

Refreshments will include cookies and coffee. Anything you wish to bring will be welcome, Admission is only \$5.00 per person. Let's make this first ever Game Night a Big Success.

25th Anniversary Year !

*The Board of Trustees wants to solicit the UUFMC members to create a **UUFMC LOGO** to celebrate the UUFMC 25th anniversary year. Dig down into your creativity juices and design a logo suitable to be used all during our 25th year. The deadline for this project will be **May 1st**. The congregation will select our logo by paper ballot vote on **Sunday May 10th***

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!

Getting to Know us



Louise & Mark Colussi

As soon as our five children were in school, I started doing art work. I belonged to two art groups and a theater group. I designed and Mark and I built sets: "Music Man", "King and I", "Flower Drum Song" among many others.

When the kids were old enough, we hit the road and did art fairs in mid-west and in winter Florida . We did art shows for thirty years. I painted; Mark framed them. We had two homes, a large trailer and pulled a storage trailer. When the storage trailer was stolen, we quit shows and moved to the Village . We met Rona Gold who told us about UU. Mark and I have 7 grand children and 5 great grand children!

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 (andreacoburn@thevillages.net) of your requirement.



National Religious Campaign Against Torture

TORTURE IS A MORAL ISSUE

Dear Friends:

Earlier this week, President Obama expressed openness to the possibility of Congress creating an independent, non-partisan Commission of Inquiry to examine the use of torture in our interrogation policies and practices since Sept. 11, 2001. You can read about President Obama's comments in the Washington Post by [clicking here](#).

President Obama doesn't need to wait for Congress. He can create a Commission of Inquiry himself. The release of the International Committee of the Red Cross report identifying U.S. interrogation techniques as torture, the Office of Legal Counsel memos detailing the various acts of torture, and the Senate Armed Services Committee Report showing that some of our highest officials approved the use of torture, confirm the need for a Commission of Inquiry. Only a Commission will be able to pull all the facts together and provide us with information we need to prevent the use of torture in the future. The most direct way to establish such a Commission is for President Obama to appoint a Commission himself.

[Please click here](#) to email President Obama and tell him that while you appreciate what he's done to stop torture, he needs to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to help ensure that torture never happens again.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Gustitus, Board President
Rev. Richard Killmer, Executive Director

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, May 2009

Our UUA has three categories of ministry and one stands out as a most visible part of the larger world and that is **community ministry**. These ministers are called to reach out beyond our congregational walls to the larger public community and have been an essential part of our UU ministry since their beginnings. Community ministry was formally recognized as a specialization within UU ministerial fellowship in 1991. It is estimated that 15 to 20 percent of all ordained UU clergy are community ministers. In Florida we have five Community Ministers.

Community ministry remains misunderstood by some congregations, seminaries, students, and other ministers and there have been significant challenges affecting this worthy calling. Community ministers may work independently or in an organization, outside a congregation. They generally are employed outside a church setting, and typically are involved in healing or justice work, being employed as chaplains in a medical setting or working in a wide range of social service and justice organizations. Some work to bridge the gap between congregations and secular organizations; and

some work part-time within congregations or in community organizations. They are required to have a relationship with a UU congregation, district, or UUA-associated organization, in order to remain in fellowship with the UUA. Having a relationship with a UU congregation is beneficial for both the minister and congregation by providing support spiritually and socially. Community ministry is sometimes undervalued and can be underpaid. The UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock has been generous and instrumental in assisting with funding because Veatch believes strongly in the importance of community ministry.

Rev. William Schulz, past President of the UUA, past Executive Director of Amnesty International, and a global community minister said, "Part of good ministry is helping people confront the ultimate elements of existence, including the most painful. Staying engaged with these very painful issues takes great courage, which is a matter of religious faith in some measure. Community ministers help people engage the world's most difficult realities in a way that allows them to remain whole and hopeful. They help us look on the abyss while remaining whole and emotionally and spiritually healthy. They break through our outer exteriors to touch our hearts, without letting our hearts be ripped apart."

In closing please know how much I enjoyed meeting with some of you at the District Annual Assembly in March (the April column was written before the Assembly). Thank you for attending; hope the event was a good one for you. I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.



*Unitarian Universalist of Marion County
UUFMC
Post Office Box 829
Summerfield, Florida, 34492*