

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen

February 2010



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

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Forum 9:30 Sunday Services 10:30

The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin – Celia Friedenthal

Our Smith of late most wonderfully swore that whilst he breathed he would drink no more but since, I know his meaning, for I think he meant he would not breath while he did drink.

February 7th

Speaker: Castlebay musical couple – “Brigid’s Day” This ancient Celtic holiday celebrates our emergence from winter’s darkness. Brigid is the patron of creativity and new beginning. She embodies the cycles of nature and reminds us of our place in the world.

Forum: George Erickson will continue his presentation from the January 31 of Richard Dawkins. Dawkins is first class as he calmly questions a sampling of passionate, conservative representatives of Judaism, Islam and Christianity whose own words condemn them better any critic could.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Griffith Close: Barefield

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Hope Deckman & Betsy Pintar

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

February 14th

Speaker: Meredith Garmon – “Biotheology 3: Soteriology”

Soteriology is the study of religious doctrines of salvation. Understanding ourselves as animals in a natural world, in what does salvation then consist?

Forum: Meredith Garmon will continue his series presentation on the history of Unitarian-Universalism. To this point we have progressed into the 19th Century with such luminaries as Channing, Emerson, and Parker. We will pick up the thread from there.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Hord Close: Chady

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord & Carole Clarke

Service Leader: Dick Chady

February 21st

Speaker: Peggy Wolfson -- “Poetry and Being Unitarian” She will be sharing a few beautiful poems that reflect our values as Unitarians, and this will include poems of her own. She will also be talking about the value of writing and reading poetry.

Forum: Science and Religion DVD - Prof. Lawrence Principe of Johns Hopkins Univ. presents a historians and to some extent philosophical view science and religion (primarily Western Christianity). He puts into perspective a historians definition of religions and of science.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Coburn Close: Donato

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith & PK Kobes

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

February 28th

Speaker: Pat (PK) Kobes will present: “Amish Grace: A Spirituality of Forgiveness.” This presentation offers the opportunity to understand and employ the role of forgiveness in our lives.

Forum: Open discussion - whatever is on the minds of those who attend.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Zanelli Close: Ridgard

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Betsy Gilleland & Barbara Thomas

Service Leader: Mary Ann Donato

Announcements

Attendance 120

Offering :

Building Fund = \$200,

Operating Fund = \$3340,

Haiti = \$135

Happy Birthday

02/01 Ridenour* Colleen
02/03 Kemp Bob
02/04 Mitchell* Millie
02/04 Deckman* John
02/07 Burrows* Rita
02/12 Sessions Gene
02/19 Hill* Charlene
02/19 Spahn Rebekah
02/25 Brown* Adelyn
02/25 Denison* Carolyn

If you do not see your name here and you want us all to celebrate your Birthday then email / call Bill or Andrea Coburn, Millie Mitchell or other membership folks.

President's Message for February: The following quotation is from "When Things Fall Apart" by Pema Chodron. I have found this authors books to be most interesting and enlightening. You might enjoy reading her works also.

"Generally speaking, we regard discomfort in any form as bad news. Abut for practitioners ... people who have a certain hunger to know what is true ... feelings like disappointment, embarrassment, irritation, resentment, anger, jealousy, and fear, instead of being bad news, are actually very clear moments that teach us where it is that we're holding back. They teach us to perk up and lean in when we would rather collapse and back away. They're like messengers that show us, with terrifying clarity, exactly where we are stuck. This very moment is the perfect teacher, and, lucky for us, it's with us wherever we are.

Those events and people in our lives who trigger our unresolved issues could be regarded as good news. We don't have to go hunting for anything. We don't need to try to create situations in which we reach our limit. They occur all by themselves, with clockwork regularity.

Each day, we are given many opportunities to open up or shut down. The most precious opportunity presents itself when we come to the place where we think we can't handle whatever is happening. It's too much. It's gone too far. We feel bad about ourselves. There's no way we can manipulate the situation to make ourselves come out looking good ... That's being nailed by life, the place where you have no choice except to embrace what's happening [and learn from it] or push it away. ...This very moment is the perfect teacher."

Monday Meditation Service: Rev. Meredith Garmon prepared a one hour "Monday Meditative Service" for 10:00 AM each Monday at the Fellowship. The service is primarily practice in meditating and sharing our reflections from the meditation. Everyone is welcome! When Meredith isn't here to lead, Don Hundt will take his place.

Please sign the **petitions to Marion County's Legislators** asking for additional resources restored to the budget can be signed by people in all counties.

The petitions are on the back table; five signatures per page. Thank You! Bill Denison

Board Meeting: The February Board meeting will be Monday, **February 15**, 2010. From 1:30 to 2:30 pm the Board members will be studying the Peter Block book on Communication. The business meeting will be from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Members and friends are welcome to attend. The Board meeting will be followed by a potluck dinner for all members and friends and a discussion session with Rev. Meredith Garmon.

Meredith Garmon's Revised Schedule: **February 14 and 15**, 2010 schedule

Sunday, February 14th

9:30 am - **Forum:** Adult Class

10:30am - **Sunday Service and a Membership Service** conducted by Rev. Meredith Garmon, for those who have signed the book over the past year.

1:00 pm - **Committee Meeting** (The committee he will meet with will rotate from month to month.)

2:30-6:00pm - **Office Hours** (You can try dropping in. However, it might be wiser to schedule an appointment)

7:00pm - **Lay ministry** (pastoral care) training. **These sessions are open to all interested UUFMC members.** The discussions on Nonviolent Communication have been excellent.

Monday, January 25th

10:00 – 1:00 am – **Meditation**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - **Board Training with Meredith** The Board members should read the first six chapters of the new study book by Peter Block prior to the meeting. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend

2:30 - 4:30 pm **Board Meeting**

5:00 pm – Potluck dinner and open discussion with Meredith Garmon

Workshop on Non-Violent Communication

LoraKim Joyner from the Gainesville UU will be offering a workshop on Non-Violent Communication on Saturday, **February 6**. NVC teaches strategies to transform potential conflicts into peaceful dialogues.

“Learn simple tools to defuse arguments and create compassionate connections with your family, friends and others.” John Gray, Ph.D.,

Scheduled for 9:30 – 3:30. The price per person is \$12 and include a light lunch. The UCC congregation will be co-sponsoring with us. Look for sign-up sheet at the fellowship hall or contact Andrea Coburn andreacoburn@thevillages.net 751-6673

Feb. 18th - Separate Tables (third Thursday of each month) will be held at Pasta Faire, Hwy 441/27, Belleview, at 11:30. Lots of tasty specials are available. Please sign the sheet on the back table.

Carolyn Denison

Humanist Meeting February 16, 1:30 PM

We will be watching a video, afterwards following by a discussion. Our topic is "A Comprehensible Universe?"
Bob Zannelli

UUFMC Library - As mentioned in a previous newsletter, UUFMC now has a very lovely, growing library for the use of all our members and friends. This feat was accomplished by many hours of hard work put in by Bob and Marilyn Feser. I do hope all of you have had a chance to visit and use our new library, located off of the office.

Our new library:

Now that it is a well functioning, card categorized library, Bob and Marilyn would like to step aside and hand over the responsibility of monitoring the library and its use to someone new. Marilyn feels it would be most helpful if this person was computer savvy enough to computerize the system now in place.

If any of you are willing to take on this service for our Fellowship, please contact Celia Everist at 352-438-0283.

UU and You is a committee that helps to set up very social events for our Fellowship. Next on our agenda, would be helping to plan and set up two upcoming Potlucks that will correspond with Meredith's visits. They will be held on Feb. 15th and March 15th.

We are in need of people who are willing to step up and help by serving as members of the UU and You committee.

If you have the time to help our Fellowship by serving on this committee please contact Celia Everist at 352-438-0283. **UU NEEDS YOU!**

Social Justice Corner

The Social Justice Committee will meet on Tues. Feb. 16 at 3:00. We invite you to join us in applying our Unitarian Universalists principles in working toward peace, liberty and justice. For information contact Andrea Coburn 751-6673 andracoburn@thevillages.net

Washington DC Trip, April 15-20

6 days - 5 nights \$490 pp do

Includes motorcoach from Summerfield area, 5 breakfasts, 3 dinners, all admissions, hotels, gratuities & tips.

Many tours (such as WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans Memorials, Arlington Cemetery, Washington and Lincoln Monuments, Smithsonian, and much more!)

Deadline for final payment is 2-11-10.

Pick up a flyer at our Fellowship.

Organized by Cindy Kuckel 347-7121 (ckuckel@yahoo.com)

Only a limited number of spaces remain.

Denominational Connections

The congregational poll on the draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking resulted in 20 ballots being submitted. Seventeen voted "yes" to the question: "Should the Draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking be placed on the Final Agenda for the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis in June, 2010?" There were 3 ballots with no vote indicated.

The congregation poll on the proposed Congregational Study/Action Issues resulted in the weighted votes as follows:

Ending Slavery – 67

Energy, Peace, and Justice – 50

Immigration as a Moral Issue – 42

National Economic Reform – a Moral Imperative – 61

Nuclear Disarmament – 27

Revitalizing American Democracy – 34

These results will be reported to UUA.

General Assembly: If you are interested in serving as a delegate to the UU General Assembly, please notify Joyce Mills, John Deckman or Andrea Coburn.

UUFMC Connections Group Plans to Raise Money for Window Shades

Our Sooper Soup group invites all UUFMC UU's to buy a ticket for a delicious and filling meal on Sunday, **(Correction from last week) February 28th**, 2010 immediately after Sunday Services.

The meal will consist of Homemade soups, salads, veggies, bread, drinks, and dessert for the low, low price of \$8.00. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the UUFMC for purpose of purchasing blinds for the conference/office area.

Tickets are on sale until January 24th. UUFMC-goers may contact any of the following members to obtain tickets:

Mary Allen, Mary Ann Donato Phil Edgington, Cecelia Everest, Sylvia Kelch, Pat McIntosh, Joyce Mills, Barbara Thomas, Colleen Ridenour, and Jim Urell.

Tickets should go fast, so get your tickets early.

Philosophy Club

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

A new opportunity to think, discuss and learn is about to arrive at UU. The Philosophy Club will begin meeting at 4 PM every Second and Fourth Friday of the month in the Main Room of the UU. The first meeting will be on February 12th.

Our first topic will be based on the concept of Distributive Justice based on the concepts of Emmanuel Kant, John Rawls and Michael Sandel. Sandel is a lecturer at Harvard and was recently featured in a series on PBS/WGBH. The videos can be viewed or downloaded from

<http://www.wgbh.org/programs/programDetail.cfm?programid=429>

Sandel's book "Justice" can be bought from Amazon and is available on Kindle.

Join us!

REMINDER

February 23, Trip to the Carribean.

We are moving closer and closer to saying BON BOYAGE. We will meet at 5:45 a.m. of Feb. 23 at the terminal in Spanish Springs. The bus will leave at 6:15 a.m.

As you know, the Villages does not allow vehicles to be parked in any of the parking lots or other facilities over night. Therefore, it is incumbent on you to:

- 1. have a friend deliver you to and pick you up from the bus terminal. OR*
- 2. Arrange to park your car at a friend's home during the time we will be on the cruise.*

*Have a fun cruise and a great time. We are looking forward to seeing you and the 67 people in our group.
Pete Jarmer*

Sunshine Committee

Elizabeth Green (from George) *Thanks for your concern. Surprisingly Eliz. is progressing.*

On Sat. she had a stroke...her left side was somewhat paralyzed.

The Dr's. put her on high dosages of blood thinner. That did

the job & dissolved the blood clots in her head. Her only major problem now is swallowing. I had a call from the hospital today & they will soon transfer her to a Rehab. facility.

I checked out several "Rehab's" yesterday & found one I thought was the best for her. (It's like a Hyatt House Hotel) in Ocala, with lots of equipment & exercise specialists.

I'll keep you informed.

...George

Bob Feser

I wish to extend my thanks to the UUFMC Care committee and all the members of the congregation who sent me cards and wishes for a quick recovery from my recent illness and surgery. These actions are very meaningful and appreciated.

Allergies

Please be considerate of those who are allergic to colognes and perfumes and apply sparingly.



The UU-UNO is proud to invite you to attend our

2010 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar
"A Climate of Change: Head, Heart and Hands Around the Planet"
April 8-10, 2010

Please mark your calendars - **April 8-10, 2010 (Youth program begins on April 7) - New York City**

Every April, youth and adults from around the United States and Canada gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Intergenerational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deep understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun in the wonderful intergenerational environment. Past seminars have focused on water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and peacekeeping. This year's topic is *Climate Change*. During these four days approximately 75 youth and advisors stay at one of our Manhattan based UU congregations, learning, making friends, having fun, and mobilizing. Not only do youth attend the conference but many also take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office for more information on how to participate in the next spring seminar! Please visit our website at <http://uu-uno.org/> to register!

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Tony Broccoli

Our keynote speaker, is director of the Rutgers Center for Environmental Protection and an experienced UU-UNO Scientific Advisor who will present work of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

Dr. Graciella Chichilnsky

A world renowned economist who developed the carbon market system used in the Kyoto Protocol, and created the sustainable development theory in economics.

Dr. Alan Robock

A climatologist studying the effects of human impacts on climate and the risks of geoengineering

Rev. Fletcher Harper

Leader of GreenFaith, an interfaith coalition for the environment
as well as speakers presenting
UU Ministry for Earth
Youth Leader Stories from the Copenhagen Climate Conference

[Click here](#) to download and distribute the Sprig Seminar Flyer

Email any questions to springseminar@uu-uno.org

New articles above

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Reprint articles below

UUFMC Calendar

If you have additions, deletions, or modifications to items listed on the UUFMC calendar please send them to Andrea Coburn as soon as possible. Your compliance will reduce the chance for conflict in schedules and enhance the use of the resources of our UUFMC church.

If your activities are to repeat as they were in December, there is no need to contact Andrea.

HELP WANTED

A willing member with basic computer skills to compile information for the order of service for the Sunday services. Information is emailed from the service participants for insertion into a template of the order of service. Once compiled the order of service is electronically transmitted to the volunteers who duplicate it on Sunday mornings. Contact Allie: indigo8062@earthlink.net or 547-9670. Thank you.

Greeters will be asked to do this by someone on the Membership Committee **as folks walk in the door on Sunday morning**. Your "job" will be to (a) welcome folks (2 before the forum, 4 before the service) and hand out the service bulletin, (b) pass around the two microphones during the main service when people wish to speak, (c) take up the collection (4) and (d) take a count of those in attendance and turn that number over to the person from the Membership Committee who is in charge for the month. December it will be Allie Gore. There is no road map for these tasks; just however it works out. So, smile when you walk in the doors and you may be the lucky ones chosen!!! Suggestions? Call Carolyn Denison at 245-0260.

Chalice Lighters

Members and friends who would like to participate in the Sunday service by lighting the chalice are welcome to do so. A calendar is available for you to sign up on the date you wish to light the chalice. Look for it on a bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. If for some reason you do not find the "sign up calendar" email or phone Phil Lindsley 751-0225 or Pl1@hotmail.com. Thank you!

River Cruise from the Black Sea to Munich -- One cabin remaining with our travel agent for the 15-day cruise commencing **April 4th**. If interested in the details, please call Carolyn Denison, 245-0260.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, **February 2010**

There is always information to be written about governing as a board using the Carver Policy Governance method. Although both the Florida District Board and the UUA Board of Trustees (BOT) studied and were trained in Carver PG, the UUA BOT has adapted much of what is appropriate in policy governance as we govern on your behalf. The BOT has begun to tackle more deeply the issues on whose behalf we govern and to whom we are accountable.

For the readers of this column it may be good to understand certain aspects of policy governance which are affecting the deliberations, decisions, and operation of the BOT. It is necessary to clarify who the "owners", also known as one of our Sources, are in our governance structure. Owners are all those UUs who are the people on whose behalf the BOT determines the Ends: the benefits being produced, for whom at what cost. Owners in our Association are the congregations. An owner is sometimes perceived as a "customer" when requesting services from the District and/or UUA Staff. The use of the term "stakeholders", who are not "owners", refers to those who have an interest in our Association and includes employees and other UU organizations. The time frame and expected results for owners are long-term, involves the big picture and future returns. For customers expectations are much more short term. The connections our UUA has with our owners and customers are very different.

The BOT will govern with an emphasis on outward vision, an encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership, a clear distinction between the roles of the BOT and President, collective decisions, the future, pro-activity, and an open, transparent process. Our primary focus will be linkage with our congregations in a process of engaging the relational, cooperative power of covenant. The work of the BOT in connecting with congregations will not be “telling” or “reporting” but rather “listening” to perspectives regarding needs and what benefits our UUA should produce, be accountable, and let you know what is being achieved.

The BOT will be concerned with congregational values and who in the congregation speaks for these values. This will help determine the values of future generations of UUs. The BOT may involve itself in the history and theology of UUism to be sure the values inherent in our UU traditions and heritage are understood. We will be involved with much questioning and researching.

Hopefully in March I will be able to write about the method of selection that will identify a random sample from a variety of representative groups, perhaps determined by congregation size and location. Our linkage focus will be “right relationship” between the BOT and its member congregations in their role as Sources. Stay tuned...and let me hear from you: jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.

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