

# UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen

January 2010



## **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**

### **January 3rd**

**Speaker:** Judy Minear will present: "The Healing Effects of Sound" The ancient Egyptians were masters of the use of sound for healing. Judy will discuss some of her discoveries in the field of sound that she learned while visiting Egypt.

**Forum:** Peggy Wolfson will present: "Origins of Life"

**Building and Grounds Duty Person:** Open: Ruth Deussen Close: Cindy Kuckel

**A/V Operator:** As assigned by Robert Ridgard

**Coffee & Hospitality:** Fran Marciano & Ruth Deussen

**Service Leader:** Ann Barefield

### **January 10th**

**Speaker:** Rev. Meredith Garmon will present: "The Myth of Scarcity"

The truth of life is abundance -- yet so often our fears lead us to adopt myths of scarcity which are only true insofar as they are self-fulfilling.

**Forum:** Rev. Meredith Garmon – Adult RE

**Building and Grounds Duty Person:** Open: Barbara Schuster Close: Dick Chady

**A/V Operator:** As assigned by Robert Ridgard

**Coffee & Hospitality:** Barbara Schuster & Betsy Gilleland

**Service Leader:** Dick Chady

### **January 17th**

**Speaker:** Jim McIntosh will present: "There Is Grave Doubt that Thomas Hobson Was a Unitarian". It refers to a livery stable owner named Thomas Hobson, circa 1600 who rented horses. Although he had more than 40 horses and although it looked as though there were many choices, he would only rent the horse closest to the door. Your choice then was either the horse he wanted to rent or none at all. Do we help ourselves if we insist on only one way to do things?

**Forum:** A DVD about Science and Religion will be shown

**Building and Grounds Duty Person:** Open: Wendy Griffith Close: Wendy Griffith

**A/V Operator:** As assigned by Robert Ridgard

**Coffee & Hospitality:** Wendy Griffith & Barbara Thomas

**Service Leader:** Joyce Mills

### **January 24th**

**Speaker:** Pat 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

**Building and Grounds Duty Person:** Open: Andrea Coburn Close: Dick Bassette

**A/V Operator:** As assigned by Robert Ridgard

**Coffee & Hospitality:** Lucia Beall & Susan Ashley

**Service Leader:** Mary Ann Donato

### **January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Speaker:** Rev. Sarah York -- "Being Good for Nothing" As religious liberals, we are not motivated toward moral behavior by the fear of everlasting punishment or the hope of heavenly reward. What is it in our faith, then, that calls us toward goodness?

**Forum:** George Erickson will present: Richard Dawkins--The Root of All Evil--Part I

**Building and Grounds Duty Person:** Open: Fran Marciano Close: Bob Kemp

**A/V Operator:** As assigned by Robert Ridgard

**Coffee & Hospitality:** Mary Ann Donato & Fran Marciano

**Service Leader:** Bill Lowenberg

### **Happy Birthday**

Tom Garman\* 01/06

Cindy Kuckel\* 01/10

Joyce Mills\* 01/11

Bob Gore\* 01/17

Mark Levine 01/17

Judy Kemp\* 01/22

Marianne Mauer\* 01/22

Isabel Bligh\* 01/24

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.

## Announcements

### **President's Message for the New Year**

As we begin 2010 at the UUFMC it is my wish that all the members and friends will have had a wonderful holiday and that this will be the best year ever for each one of you.

During this past year, we have continued to move roughly west at the Fellowship. We have continued to add new members and they are becoming part of our Fellowship family. The potluck suppers have allowed us to have conversations about growth and where we go from here. Meredith Garmon has been a great help to the Board and several of the committees. He has given support to grieving members and performed a marriage ceremony. Members and friends continue to learn from the meditation session that he leads on Monday morning when he is here and several of us have found the Lay Leadership session on Sunday evening to be very helpful. I believe we can agree that his service and Forum presentations have been outstanding. Thank you Meredith for giving so freely of your time and talents!!!

Our Fellowship is beautifully decorated for the holidays and we have Fran Marciano and the Gift Memorial Committee to thank for that. Also, I give a big thank you to Ruth Deussen and Peggy Wolfson for coordinating the Christmas Program this year. I truly think I can safely say that it was enjoyed by all who were present. Thank you also to all who participated. Your talents are many,

We will be thanking the Board members and committees for all the things they have done for the fellowship at the annual meeting. However, I would like to just take a few lines to say thank you to all the committee chairs and members for the services we have had each Sunday, for taking care of the building and grounds, for taking care of members and guests, for caring for the grieving and the ill, for printing the order of service for us to use each Sunday, for planning the Forum topics, for the music we have enjoyed each Sunday, for the library, for the coffee and refreshments that seem to magically appear each Sunday, for the supplies that always seem to be there, for the newsletter and weekly announcement, and for all the many things that would not happen if those who give so freely of their time and talents were not willing to do so.

I also wish to say a special thank you to the Board. Thank you for all the support you have given me while I have been president and for your willingness to take the heat when others do not agree with your decisions. Thank you for being willing to give many hours to help make the Fellowship run smoothly. Thank you, most of all, for being willing to take the Board job and do it well. It has been a privilege to work with you and I wish all those who are remaining on the Board in April a very productive year. I will be going off the Board along with Andrea Coburn, Wendy Griffith, and Celia Everist. Thank you to each one of you whether you have been on the Board a year as Celia has or for several years as Wendy and Andrea have been. Your commitment to this Fellowship has been significant.

In closing, I wish to say thank you to all our members and friends for all you have given to the Fellowship this year. May we continue to move roughly west in the years to come.

Ann Barefield, President

**Choir Rehearsal** – The choir will continue to meet on Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. We would love for some of the singing members of the congregation to join us. We have new music coming and this spring should be fun as Al leads us in learning the new music. Come and join us for an enjoyable Thursday afternoon.

**Meredith Garmon's Schedule: January 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 schedule**

**Sunday, December 10th**

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

10:30am - **Sunday Service**

1:00-2:30pm - **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**

10:00 am - noon – **Meditation**

11:30 – 12:30 pm – **Finance Committee Meeting**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - **Board Training with Meredith**

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

**Jan. 10 Service, Lunch Kick Off 2010-2011 Pledge Drive**

As 2009 draws to a close, it's appropriate to reflect on how important it is to support UUFMC financially. More precisely, (a) donations must be made by December 31 to qualify for 2009 tax deductions and (b) we will soon begin the pledge drive for 2010-2011.

Thanks to the generous support of members through pledges and other donations, in 2009-2010, we were able to:

- Hire a consulting minister to present services once per month and otherwise share his knowledge and experience in helping the fellowship to grow.
- Complete the kitchen by adding more cabinets.
- Improve our appearance by adding landscaping in front.
- Upgrade our computer capabilities and add wireless service at the church.

The reason the fellowship has grown steadily is the willingness of members and friends to share their time, treasure and talent in making it a spiritual home that we all value so deeply.

In order to continue to progress, in early January we will distribute the materials for members and others to pledge support in the church fiscal year beginning April 1, 2010. As part of this:

- We have already begun a testimonial during the service each week for various members to explain why they appreciate the fellowship and support it financially.
- On Sunday, January 10, Rev. Meredith Garmon will present a sermon on the importance of supporting the fellowship.
- After the Jan. 10 service, the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee will present a lunch to kick off the annual pledge drive and receive pledge forms to help prepare the budget for the upcoming year. More details will follow.

In the meantime, best wishes for happy holidays and a healthy and productive new year.

*Dick Chady and Jim McIntosh*

**Social Justice**

*The Social Justice Committee will meet Thursday, January 21 at 3:00.*

*Join us in planning for the New Year.*

**Buddhist Study Group.** *Provided that there is interest, I would like to lead a four week course titled, "In the Words of The Buddha." You will be provided with readings, mainly from the Pali Canon, the oldest known Buddhist texts. Always keeping in mind the Buddha's admonition to use critical reason, we can draw our own conclusions about the message he taught. If you would like to participate, there will be a sign up sheet at the back of the Fellowship, or you can email me at [RDeussen@AOL.com](mailto:RDeussen@AOL.com). Dates/time: January 14th is the beginning date. We meet for four Thursdays in a row from 1 - 3 pm.*

**Connections group**

*Although the annual renewal is completed, members and friends are welcome to join a Connections group anytime during the year. The groups vary as far as meeting time and meeting format. If interested in joining a group, please let Wendy Griffith, Ann Barefield or Fran Marciano know.*

**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.*

**Adding wireless service at the church.**

*Internet access has been added to the UUFMC AV Computer. The principle intent of this addition is to enable access to 'on-line' educational topics of interest to our Members and Friends, as well as allowing us to view real time and recorded UUA video broadcasts and conferences.*

*This access also enables software updates to the AV system.*

*Guidelines for usage are still being generated. Please understand that this connection comes with limited bandwidth capability for a monthly fee. Exceeding the contracted usage would result in high additional costs. Understandably there will be limitations initiated, but we hope this connectivity will enable us to broaden our access to a wide knowledge base.*

*Rob't 'Luigi' Ridgard  
AV Chair*

**MINISTER RETIRING**

*The Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf, of Crystal River, will be delivering her last official sermon on Dec.27, at 10:30 AM, at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The topic is "A Liberal Religion for the community." Her story is inspiring: the widow and colleague of a minister, ordained later in life. The Sermon will be followed by a discussion period and a brief celebration with refreshments. All are invited. 7633 No. Florida Ave (rte 41) Citrus Springs, just north of the Holder intersection. [www.NCUU.org](http://www.NCUU.org)*

### **The Humanist group of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County**

Humanist meeting.  
January 19, 1:30 PM

*Ruth Deussen will be presenting Creation Myths and Science. We will taking an amusing look at the various creation myths as well as the story Science tells us.*

### **UUFMC Connections Group Plans to Raise Money for Window Shades**

*Our no-name (yet) group invites all UFMC UU's to buy a ticket for a delicious and filling meal on Sunday, January 24th, 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 will go on sale this coming Sunday, Dec. 27th, and 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.*

### **Social Justice**

#### **Fifth Sunday Collection January 31.**

*The fifth Sunday collection will be for the Interfaith Emergency Services. This organization has helped over 16,000 people with food contributions through the month of October, over 9000 families with clothing donations and has provided over \$61,000 of prescription drugs for the uninsured poor. In addition the interfaith emergency services organization is currently feeding 4,420 children in the Food 4 Kids backpack program. The number of people in our area needing assistance continues to climb. There is little help in sight from government as, at the federal level tax money continues to be diverted to the major banks and investment institutions, while states, including Florida, cut back on programs providing assistance to the poor. Please give generously to the fifth Sunday collection.*

*Bob Zannelli*

### **MLK. Jr. Breakfast**

*To reserve a seat at our UUFMC table at the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast and Awards Ceremony.*

*9:00 January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Savannah Center, please sign the list on the Social Justice bulletin board. Suggested donation: \$10. Make checks payable to "MLK Jr. Awards Committee." For more information contact Andrea Coburn [andreacoburn@thevillages.net](mailto:andreacoburn@thevillages.net) 751-6673*

### **Social Justice**

The MLK Jr. Day March will be January 18 starting at the Ocala Downtown Square at 8:00 a.m. followed by a "Day at the Park" at the MLK Recreation Commission Complex. We plan to have UUFMC delegation marching with our banner. Contact for Andrea Coburn for additional information or carpooling. 751-6673 [andreacoburn@thevillages.net](mailto:andreacoburn@thevillages.net)

### **January Potluck - New to UU night!**

January 11th at 5:00pm will be the next potluck with Rev. Garmon. The Membership Committee is hosting this evening. We extend a special invitation to those who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism as this will be an abbreviated New to UU class. The congregation is invited to join in this evening of learning, sharing, and socializing. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish which will serve eight. For additional information contact Allie Gore at [indigo8962@earthlink.net](mailto:indigo8962@earthlink.net) 547-9670 Thank you.

### **Nonviolent Communications Workshop**

A workshop on Nonviolent Communication is in the planning stage for Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. LoraKim Joyner will be the facilitator. NVC transforms potential conflicts into peaceful dialogues. It teaches simple tools to defuse arguments and create compassionate connections with family, friends and others. Additional information will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Christmas party pictures**





**THANK YOU**

**The Sunday Service Program Committee** sends a holiday thanks to our members who so kindly shared their talents with the congregation, visitors and guests Sunday the 20th. Ruth Deussen and Peggy Wolfson did a great job emceeing the event as well as coordinating the potluck. We know many hands were involved in practicing, organizing, presenting, setting up and cleaning up. On behalf of the congregation WE THANK YOU.....EVERYONE!

**REMINDER**

By now you should have received the **"UUFMC Member Survey Concerning Ministerial Services"**. It was sent by email in two versions. One can be completed and returned to [indigo8062@earthlink.net](mailto:indigo8062@earthlink.net) and the other can be printed out, completed and dropped into the SURVEY box in the gathering room. . Hard copies can also be found on the table in the vestibule. If you know someone who does not have email please remind them to pick up a survey, complete it and place it in the box in the gathering room labeled SURVEY located near the AV desk. We appreciate your input!. Thank you.

**New articles above**

**x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x**

**Reprint articles below**

**Separate Tables** will be at the Stonecrest Restaurant, next to Wal-Mart, at 11:30 on Thursday, **January 21st**. Sandwiches from \$6.95; Salads from \$7.99 and always a "soup of the day". Call Carolyn Denison at 245-0260 with questions. Please sign up at the rear of the sanctuary.

### **Dinner for 8**

The schedules for our Dinner for 8 groups have been emailed and snail mailed (to those without email). Please confirm that you received the information by emailing Allie: [indigo8062@earthlink.net](mailto:indigo8062@earthlink.net). Thank you.

### **New to UU ?**

We are planning the New to UU sessions for **January**. If you are interested please contact Allie: 547-9670 or [indigo8062@earthlink.net](mailto:indigo8062@earthlink.net).

**The AV committee** wishes to thank all contributors to the fund for purchase of a new AV Computer and the addition of Special internet access. The computer is now installed, tested and has been used for a Sunday service. By next week we expect to have limited internet access.

Special thanks are due to our AV Desk team of Bob Zannelli, Dick Bassette, Al LaPlaca, Al Reeves and Heather Cox.

Thanks to all  
Robert "Luigi" Ridgard, AV Chair

**B&G** will meet the third Wednesday in **January, the 20th**, at 2:30 PM.

**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 [PI1@hotmail.com](mailto:PI1@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.

### **Carole Clarke -Can you help?**

Relatively near to our UU Fellowship, there is a trailer park on 301, just south of 42. The San Pedro English program has begun giving classes there to Hispanic women on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10:00-11:30. We need more helping hands to watch the children while their mothers are in class. The ability to speak Spanish is not necessary. If you could help one morning a week, we would greatly appreciate it. Please call Carole Clarke 352-753-9422 or 703-434-2426.

On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 we offer series of science lectures followed by discussion. The group is called **Spinoza's Lens**. The Science of Self is a series of lectures on the genetics of human beings, with related topics. We begin with 2 lectures that address what science is, the fundamental vocabulary of science, life and human beings, and an overview of the course. This week we continue with the lecture series on The Science of Self with Lee Silver. The lectures will cover an exploration of what the human being is. This will be followed by the first full lecture on genetics, a look at Gregor Mendel's discoveries. Thanks, Peggy Wolfson

**Future Course for Spinoza's Lens. This course would run for six weeks which means we might be able to accommodate our snow birds. Flippenko is an excellent lecturer. Bob Zannelli**

#### **Black Holes Explained**

by Alex Filippenko ([Biography](#))

### **UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS**

**Joan Lund, January 2010**

After the usual hectic holidays it is time to breathe a sigh of "newness" and hope your congregation will experience and blessed and productive 2010. This will be the second column devoted to the thoughts and words of Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President as expressed at the October Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. Rev. Morales believes Unitarian Universalism should be far more than "the tiny, fringe religion it is today". Last month I wrote about growth and what must be done to accomplish this imperative.

Rev. Morales is passionate about social action and public witness efforts. He knows we have always been a faith who believes that true spirituality is fruitful in our acts of compassion and action to combat oppression and injustice. Although our prideful history indicates our being leaders in the struggle against slavery, rights for women, and the civil rights movement today we need to confront the great moral issues of our time: racism, human rights, immigration, economic justice, and preservation of life on our planet. In addition it is imperative that the forces of ignorance and fear that give rise to "militarism, nativism, and fundamentalism" be faced and resisted. Rev. Morales knows the foundation of "public exposure" built by Rev. Bill Sinkford is a foundation on which we must build.

Rev. Morales stated we must be relentless, passionate, and articulate as spokespeople for our religious values. This will include leading efforts to help our congregations be moral beacons in our communities. Congregants know what the pressing issues are in their communities. Therefore, there will be a reorganization of staff services to increase our UUA's "effectiveness in harnessing the compassion and commitment already present in our congregations". Our UUA will commit to the Green Sanctuary program, whose "administration it has just undertaken, and in other initiatives to be developed in consultation and cooperation with UU Ministry for Earth".

In order to create many more opportunities to put our faith into action Rev. Morales' administration will build on our UUA's historic continuing opportunity for partnership with the UU Service Committee. This new partnership has already responded together to the Gulf Coast disasters, in Asia, and during the genocide in Darfur. Rev. Morales believes there is much more we can do together.

I wish your congregation good health and good relationships in 2010. Please know I am available for conversation, and/or speaking at a Sunday service. I am usually a phone call (813-931-9727) or email ([jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org)) away. Happy New Year one and all.



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