

UNI-VERSE

Chair persons Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen

March 2010



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

March 7th

Speaker: Sheila Harty – “Intellectuals Are STILL Neglected Sheep.” American Christianity's lack of intellectual heft results from a strategic seduction of the masses to mute deep thought. This "dumbing down of faith" eclipses underlying metaphysical truths. Intellectuals need a more sophisticated conceptual framework--like quantum physics.

Forum: Science and Religion – In this lecture, we will examine one formulation of the historical relationship between science and religion – the warfare or conflict thesis. Loudly advanced in the 9th century by two men-John William Draper and Andrew Dickson White- it has continued strong in thought down to the present day. We will examine how this formulation rests on very shaky (and sometimes fabricated) foundations and was contrived largely from quite specific political, professional and racist purposes.

Building and Grounds Duty Person: Open: Marciano Close: Kuckel

A/V Operator: As assigned by Robert Ridgard

Coffee & Hospitality: Lucia Beall & Fran Marciano

Service Leader: Ruth Deussen

March 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: *Rev. Meredith Garmon will continue his historical view the development of Unitarian Universalist movement in the United State.*

Building and Grounds Duty Person: *Open: Schuster Close: Donato*

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

Coffee & Hospitality: *Susan Ashley & Barbara Schuster*

Service Leader: *Doug Worthington*

March 21st

Speaker: *Jim McIntosh -- "Belonging" Belonging is a goal that we all seek, we feel contented when we find a place to belong and we are depressed when we do not feel that we have found such a place. Belonging has great rewards, but it also carries responsibilities. What does it really mean to be a member of anything?*

Forum: *the forum will be devoted to the presentation of year-end reports by the various committees*

Building and Grounds Duty Person: *Open: Deussen Close: Coburn*

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

Coffee & Hospitality: *Mary Ann Donato & Ruth Deussen*

Service Leader: *Ann Barefield*

March 28th

Speaker: *Bob Young – "Albert Einstein" Mr. Young will tell about the personal life of Einstein. He feels Einstein's life makes for a fascinating story.*

Forum: *Open Discussion – This will be another opportunity for the congregation to discuss what they like and don't like about what we are doing. Come ready to discuss what you see as important for the consideration of all of us.*

Building and Grounds Duty Person: *Open: Deckman Close: Chady*

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

Coffee & Hospitality: *Carole Clarke & Hope Deckman*

Service Leader: *Dick Chady*

The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin – Celia Friedenthal

Neglect mending a small fault and 'twill soon be a great one.

Announcements

Sunday offering \$2,724

President's Message

*This is the last message I will write to you as president of the Fellowship. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of this congregation for almost 4 years. I believe we continue to move roughly west and I believe Jim McIntosh will lead you well with his many talents and skills. I am going to be the speaker on **April 4, 2010** for the service. My topic will be "The Stories We Tell" and the talk will be about how what we say about ourselves, others, the organizations we join, and life in general tends to become how we behave and what we consider to be true. In this last message, I want to tell a story about UUFMC that I hope will become how we behave and what we consider to be true.*

It is the time of year that members and friends of UUFMC participate in the annual pledging campaign. My story about what will happen this year is that all the members and friends who attend the fellowship and benefit from the programs and services will make a pledge to ensure that this organization will be here for us for many years to come. We are proud of the this Fellowship, we appreciate the programs and services that are offered and we want to do our part to ensure that we continue to have a liberal religious fellowship where we can freely share our ideas and where we allow others to do the same.

It is also that time of year when we ask folks to volunteer to chair committees so the work of this organization can be accomplished. Again, my story is about an organization where those who participate and gain from the programs step up to the plate and take a role in the work that needs to be done. We need chairs and/or co-chairs for the Fundraising Committee, the Finance Committee, the Library Committee, the Stewardship Development Committee, the Caring Committee, and the Interior Space Committee and we need coordinators for Dinners for 8 and UU and You. We know that members will fill these positions because those who attend our Fellowship are willing to take responsibility for helping make this a growing, meaningful place. We know we can count on our members to help when their help is needed because they all do their part.

UUFMC is a diverse group of members and friends who have a wide variety of beliefs and desires. In this story, each person in this fellowship is willing to allow others to see and hear what is meaningful to them in at least some of the programs and services. We have a Forum that is more geared to the humanist and a service that has the formality and spirituality that others desire. In this story, each person is willing to share and does not have to have things his or her own way in every service or program. What a delight this place is because we truly try to live our principles. We truly value the worth and dignity of every member and we realize that we can all learn from one another no matter how different our beliefs are. We are even willing to listen to beautiful music by classical composers even when it has words which we consider obsolete or not meaningful to us because it is meaningful to others in the group. We have book clubs and science clubs that meet to meet the needs of some, connections groups to meet the needs of some, Separate Tables to meet the needs of some, potluck dinners to meet the needs of some and a consulting minister to meet the needs of many because the majority of the Fellowship wishes it to be that way. Everyone does not agree with everything but there is something for everyone. We get along because we know things cannot always be our way. We learned in kindergarten that we get along better when we share. Utopia...maybe; a true UU fellowship...maybe; a story to strive for...definitely.

Happy Birthday

Ruth Prentice* 03/04/0000
Bob Bargar* 03/05/0000
Jacky McCabe* 03/07/0000
Helen Ogren* 03/08/0000
Courtney Powell 03/13/0000
Mary Allen* 03/13/1915
Bill Coburn* 03/15/1938
Patricia McIntosh* 03/17/0000
Betsy Pinter* 03/26/0000
Chuck Refshauge 03/26/0000

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.

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

Sunday, March 14th

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

10:30am - **Sunday Service**

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Class for Potential New Members**

3:30-6:00pm - **Office Hours** (You can try dropping in. However, it might be wiser to schedule an appointment)

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

Monday, March 15th

10:00 – 1:00 am – **Meditation Service**

1:30 - 2:30 pm - **Board Training with Meredith** The Board members should have read the first nine chapters of "Community" 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

Haiti Fund Raiser. On **March 21st**, we are going to have a busy day! There will be two shows to raise funds for Haiti relief. The first show is scheduled for 1:30pm (apx) after the Congregational meeting. Plans are to have a brief 'brunch' after the meeting while the musicians set up, then a marvelous performance by a variety of professional/semi-pro/amateur artists. The "brunch" is an impromptu pot luck.

Details of just who will perform are still developing, but as of right now, it's a great line-up including: a Barber Shop Quarter; a mermaid; a guy in a skirt as MC (well, it's actually a kilt); Dixieland music; harmonica music; Bob Dauhn's friend Charlie will sing (sounds like Ray Charles); did I mention a guy in a skirt? Well, we got two more guys to come in drag.....

The evening show will begin at 7:00 pm, and will be followed by (very) light refreshments.

Tickets are \$12.00 per person. See us at the Social Justice Table for your tickets! Buy many. They make great St. Patrick's day presents. Need to know more? See Ruth Deussen, Andrea Coburn, Ruth Prentice for details. And keep watching the Weekly Update for more details.

The Philosophers Den reminder

This Friday **Feb 26** at 4 PM is the next meeting of The Philosophers Den at UUFMC. I know this sounds strange – but this session will begin with the conclusion of the first video of Michael Sandel, since we didn't get to that at the last session.

We'll begin our session with the video from the Harvard 'Justice' series then move into discussion.

You don't need to read the book or preview the videos to enjoy the club. The videos can be viewed and/or downloaded at <http://www.justiceHarvard.org> if you do wish to see them.

For more info contact Rob't 'Luigi' Ridgard at rridgard@yahoo.com

Care Committee

Margaret Paris, who attends the Fellowship from time to time, is having knee surgery on **February 25, 2010**. She would like to hear of your good wishes for her recovery. Her address is:

9157 SW 82nd Terrace, Unit E,
Ocala, Fl. 34481.

Wendy

Membership UU 101

All are invited to attend "UU 101", an encounter with Unitarian Universalism, a vibrant, liberal religious tradition. This will be held immediately following the coffee hour on Sunday, **March 14th**. This is for those who are new and for those who would like a refresher course.

It will be for a total of 3 hours, so please feel free to bring a sandwich. Cookies and a refreshment will be available.

Please RSVP to Carolyn Denison by email, abcdenison@yahoo.com, or phone, 245-0260.

Olin Mills directory

All Members and those Friends with photos in the new directory are eligible for a complimentary copy of the new Photo Directory. If you would like to buy a copy, they are \$5.00. Please see a member of the Membership Committee after a Sunday service. The members are Andrea Coburn, Mary Ann Donato, Carolyn Denison, Betsy Gilleland, Millie Mitchell, Betsy Pinter, P.K. Kobes, and Barbara Thomas.

Separate Tables

Join us at the Jade Dragon Restaurant for Separate Tables at 11:30 AM, Thursday, **March 18th**. Highly recommended. Luncheon meals \$6.98 to \$8.98.
It's located on SW 27th Ave., across from Goodwill and in the same area as Honey Baked Ham.
Please call Carolyn Denison with questions.

LADIES GETAWAY GANG...Need a break? Here's your chance, ladies...on Friday, March 12, you can join us for a day trip to Tarpon Springs, a fun coastal city. While there, we will visit the UU church/museum, where the Inness paintings are installed.

We will meet at 8 AM on that day for the trip. Cost is \$8. to reimburse the drivers. We will also find a nice place for lunch. Please contact PK for more details and sign-up. Space for only 13, first come, first served.
pkkobes@yahoo.com

From Denominational Connections

*Mission of Florida District Chalice Lighters
To support and encourage the excellence and growth
of Unitarian Universalism in the Florida District
by providing resources to new and existing congregations
through the distribution of Chalice Lighter grant funds.*

From time to time, the Florida District issues a Chalice Lighter "call" seeking contributions to expand and strengthen Unitarian Universalism in the District. These requests are to help individual congregations achieve a significant step in their growth ~ typically to provide assistance with a new building, hiring professional religious staff for the first time, to form a new congregation, or to supplement creative growth projects.

We are pleased to send out this call to benefit two of our congregations:

The Friendship Fellowship at Pineda and The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Details of their requests can be accessed and on line donations can be made at

http://www.floridadistrict.org/?page_id=429

Contributions can also be sent to

Florida District UUA

Attn: Chalice Lighters

1901 E. Robinson Street, Suite 18

Orlando, Florida 32803

Our own UUFMC has been the beneficiary of the Chalice Lighter Program in the past. Here is an opportunity for us to contribute to other congregations as a way of expressing our gratitude for the help we were given.

*Andrea Coburn
352-751-6673*

From Denominational Connections Committee

There are so many things happening at Cluster, District and National level, we encourage you to check the web site at www.floridadistrict.org regularly. A few highlights this month are:

- March 13th** Building the World We Dream About – Racial Justice Workshop (Boca Raton)
- March 15th** Deadline for nominations for District Awards (form available on line or at the back of the main room)

Plan ahead for:

- April 7** UU Lobby Day (Tallahassee)
- April 9-11** Florida District Assembly with UUA Moderator Gini Courter (Miami)
- June 23-27** UUA General Assembly (Minneapolis)
- August 8-13** Southland UU Leadership Experience (The Mountain, Highlands, NC)

You can find additional information posted in the back of the main room and at www.floridadistrict.org

Membership

UUFMC Name Tags Members and Friends who would like to order UUFMC name tags may do so by signing the clip board at the back of the main room. Please indicate preference for magnet, clip or pin. Payment of \$5.00 each is requested when ordered.

Andrea Coburn
352-751-6673

Northeast Cluster Day Trip

A wonderful opportunity to refresh oneself after the chilly days of winter, meet fellow UU's and enjoy beautiful Florida! Members and friends are invited to carpool to Princess Place Preserve state park near St Augustine.

March 20th at 10a we will gather at the park for an easy two hour walk followed by exploration of the Cherokee Grove homestead the oldest homesetead in Flagler County. Participants are asked to bring a lunch, water, suntan lotion and insect repellent. It will be a wonderful day! Join us. Contact Brian Paradise, hike leader, with questions and for directions bgparadise@comcast.net.

“The Building & Grounds Committee will present two proposals for the Memorial Garden on Sunday, **March 14th** immediately following the Sunday Service. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and see visuals.

On the following Sunday, **March 21st**, members will have the opportunity to vote for the Memorial Garden plan they prefer at the Annual Meeting. The next B&G meeting is scheduled for 3:00 **March 10th**.”

Andrea Coburn
352-751-6673

It's a new day for UUA.org! The Unitarian Universalist Association's redesigned home page and resources page, along with social media, share links, and "most viewed" listings on all our pages, debuted this morning.

We invite you to check out the changes by going to <http://www.uua.org> and <http://www.uua.org/resources>.

Our home page is designed to appeal to the 85% of our home page visitors who are newcomers to Unitarian Universalism. And our resources page will, we hope, become the first destination involved UUs visit, for leadership resources, most visited pages, posts from our blogs, multimedia, and more. For additional information on the UUA's website changes, see "UUA Launches Updated Website," by Donald E. Skinner, on UUWorld.org - <http://tinyurl.com/yfo3nmp> and "Redesign Makes UUA Website More Useable", in interConnections - <http://tinyurl.com/yadodh3>

Andrea Coburn

512 Downers Grove

The Villages, FL 32162

352-751-6673

Special Announcement

Gainesville warmly welcomes a minister...again - Rev. Meredith

Garmon was overwhelmingly elected full-time minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville yesterday, January 31, at a congregational meeting following Sunday service called for that purpose. Meredith has five degrees in four different fields: BA, philosophy, State University of West Georgia, 1979; BA, English, State University of West Georgia, 1980; MA, communication studies, Baylor University, 1985; MA, philosophy, University of Virginia, 1991; PhD, government: political theory, University of Virginia, 1992. He was an assistant professor of philosophy at Fisk University (Nashville, TN) for four years. As a layperson, Meredith served as president of the UU Fellowship of Waco, TX, as Vice-president of the Thomas Jefferson

Memorial Church - UU in Charlottesville, VA, and as chair of Adult Religious Education at First UU of Nashville, TN. Meredith attended seminary at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (New Brighton, MN) for one year (2000-01); Shaw University Divinity School (Raleigh, NC) for one year (2001-02), and Meadville-Lombard Theological Seminary for one year (2003). He was admitted to the Fellowship of UU ministers in 2004, and was ordained later that year at the UU Community of El Paso. Meredith and his spouse, Rev. LoraKim Joyner, were half-time-each co-ministers in El Paso for two years (2004-06), during one year of which Meredith was also the sole half-time minister of the UU Church of Midland, TX (2005-06). In 2006, Meredith and LoraKim were called as the half-time-each co-ministers to the UU Fellowship of Gainesville. During this time, Meredith has also served as a consulting minister to the UU Church of Tarpon Springs (2008), and to the UU Fellowship of Marion County (2009-10). When LoraKim resigned recently from UUFM ministry, Meredith resigned as well. Then, he applied for the position as full-time settled minister, undergoing once more the necessary search process. (From the Northeast Cluster Newsletter, The Breeze)

Meredith will become the fulltime minister in Gainesville in August. In the meantime, he will complete his contract, which ends in May, with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County.

The Margaret Fuller 2010 Bicentennial Celebration

Restoring Margaret Fuller's place in history, literature, and memory.

A special project of UUWA and UU Women & Religion-Metro District

Laurie James, Initiator and Project Director

Contact: Lynn James, Tour Coordinator, 516 785 8921 ljg@atol.com

FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARGARET FULLER
IN ROME, RIETI, FLORENCE

- WHAT:** "FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARGARET FULLER IN ROME, RIETI, FLORENCE," a guided 11 day tour; Four Star Hotels; 10 full American breakfasts; 3 lunches, Tuscany wine tasting and lunch, Farewell Dinner; Private Coach Tour; Private Local Guides.
- WHY:** TO CELEBRATE MARGARET FULLER'S 2010 BICENTENNIAL!
To help commemorate her work and achievement in history and literature.
- WHEN:** OCTOBER 17 – 27, 2010
- WHERE:** Meet in Rome at Hotel Michelangelo, travel by private coach to Rieti and Florence.
- WHO:** Sponsored by The Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee, of the UU Woman's Association and UU Women & Religion-Metro District, funded in part by The Fund for Unitarian Universalism.
- HOW MUCH:** \$2400 – 3195 double occupancy depending on number of participants and fluctuation of euro (excluding airfare). Reduced prices for registering before March 1.
- MORE INFO:** Lynn James 516 785 8921 ljgart@aol.com
-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.... If you follow the footsteps of Margaret Fuller in Rome, Rieti, and Florence you will marvel in the Vatican and Sistine Chapel where she met Angelo Giovanni Ossoli, a Roman nobleman, and fell in love.

This is just the beginning of the jam-packed one-of-a-kind eleven-day guided tour that will celebrate and honor Margaret Fuller's 2010 Bicentennial. It is scheduled for October 17 through 27, offered by The Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee, sponsored by UU Women's Association and UU Women & Religion-Metro District

Just as Fuller explored Italy 200 years ago, you'll explore the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, count the Spanish Steps, toss coins in the Trevi Fountain, walk on the Corso, through the Trastevere and along the Tiber, Arno and Velino rivers, join friends in a Tuscany wine tasting.

You'll look out Fuller's window on the Barberini where she witnessed the fighting of the Italian Revolution of 1848-9, and you'll stand on the Janiculum Hill where she risked death by standing by the side of Ossoli one night during the Risorgimento. You'll spend time inside the Fatebenefratelli hospital where she nursed the wounded, and you'll have a special opportunity to visit the Quirinal gardens where she walked with the recovering soldiers.

You'll travel to Rieti where she secretly gave birth to a son. You'll stay in the same hotel in Florence where she and Ossoli lived; you'll tour Casa Guidi, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's home where their sons played together. And there's more!

The tour includes four-star hotels, 10 full American breakfasts, a lunch in a convent, a farewell dinner, a private coach tour, private local guides. The cost is \$2400-\$3150 per person double occupancy, excluding airfare, depending on number of participants and fluctuation of euro. Contact: ljgart@aol.com or 516 785 8921. More information: www.margaretfuller.info.

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, **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.

New articles above

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

Reprint articles below

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

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.

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 **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!**

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.

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.

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 PII1@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 TIDBIT
Joan Lund, March 2010

It's always rewarding and invigorating to know information written in this column is being read. Thanks to UUA Florida friends who are writing and calling me. Some folks are not agreeing with the UUA Board's decision to become a policy governance Board and others are saying they like the changes we are instituting. First, some background on why we are pursuing certain paths regarding our Board work. This year Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, with essentially the same governance structure that was put in place during the merger. During these past almost-fifty years several task forces have studied our UUA governance and came to much the same determination: our governance is too complex and is not effective. Our leaders are not authorized to do the jobs they were elected to do, the UUA Board is too big to be effective, and GA is too expensive, especially considering many delegates are not accountable in any way to their respective congregations. The UUA Board and other leaders in our faith are continuing the conversation started with the District President's Association on the shift toward regionalization during GA 2010, and we are making certain we include the voices of traditionally marginalized groups in our discussions.

As you know from last month's column it is my intention to continue writing about the Board's commitment to link with one of our Sources (congregations). During the months of February and March each Board member will be contacting four to six congregations and asking for a sit-down-together conversation or a telephone conference call to talk with leadership and ministers about healthy relationships, specifically maintenance of healthy relationships with our member congregations. In each district congregations were selected "randomly" considering several factors: district geographical size, number of congregations in the district, and size of membership within a congregation. Three to eight congregations will be contacted within each district. Seven Florida congregations have been chosen; the congregations have been contacted and we are well on our way to scheduling our time together. I will be talking with leadership in four Florida District congregations, and have asked the president of the congregation to determine the participants. Once the Board has processed all the information received from our linkage congregations, we will make it available to all congregations.

Note: I hope those of you who are interested in the work of the Fifth Principle Task Force to go to our UUA web site and link on to that report. Some of what is recommended is being considered in a motion the Board is putting forth at GA. Next month I plan to write about our June 2010 GA to be held in Minneapolis. Each year this is an exciting, exhilarating time in which there is "something for all UUs", plus there is important business to be determined. Hopefully many of you are planning to attend. Information can be found at www.uua.org. In the mean time contact me with your thoughts, suggestions, and questions: jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727. And right now I say...bring on some warmer weather.

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

