

# **UNI-VERSE**

Chair persons *Bill Coburn & Ruth Deussen*  
**June 2008**

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

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**Forum 9:00 Sunday Services 10:00**

### **June 1st**

Forum: Open Discussion – Leadership. What are the qualifications of a true leader? Is leadership the same in the UU polity?

#### **DEDICATION SERVICE**

*A special service to officially dedicate our new building.*

*(Don't forget your covered dish)*

### **June 8th**

Coffee & Hospitality: Wendy Griffith

Forum: Jim McIntosh "UU Etiquette" – Jim McIntosh – How does what we do and say in public paint the picture of what Unitarian Universalism is?

Greeters: Keith & Carol Carver

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Gene Klein

Speaker: Rev. Lloyd Dunham "Convicted Blasphemer!" Abner Kneeland was one of our Universalist forebears from Massachusetts who, after twenty-five years pastoring was put out of the denomination for his free thinking ways. He believed that the best of the Bible came out of human experience, not Divine revelation. His ministry took him beyond New England to Philadelphia and New York City as well as Hartford. I call this one of my "UU Heroes" series.

### **June 15th**

Coffee & Hospitality: Jeanne Collins

Forum: Tom Garman will discuss "Employees Financial Help and the Employer's Bottom Line"

Greeters: Pat Wilson & Coleen Ridenour

Service Leader: Ann Barefield

Chalice Lighter: Bill Denison

Speaker: Sheila Harty – "Deconstructing Biblical Literalism" In deconstructing Biblical texts, scholars take forensic evidence from linguistics and archeology and apply a historical-literary analysis to determine the meaning of a passage. Without such a method, one can't say what scripture means.

### **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Coffee & Hospitality: Mary Hord

Forum: Joe Pine of Metro Crime Prevention of Florida will present common sense ways to protect yourself and your property against crime.

Greeters: TBA

Service Leader: Jim Mitchell

Chalice Lighter: Karl Sheffer

Speaker: Peggy Wolfson – “Why We Believe What We Believe” The discomfort of realizing how easy it is to “preach to the choir” and how difficult it is to have a meaningful discussion with those of opposing views.

## June 29<sup>th</sup>

Coffee & Hospitality: Barbara Schuster

Forum: Part 1 of Video on the life's work of Howard Zinn - He has been one of the countries most inspiring labor organizers and social reformers, particularly in the turbulent times of the last third of the 20th century.

Greeters: TBA

Service Leader: Wendy Griffith

Chalice Lighter: Al LaPlaca

Speaker: Ruth Deussen – “Santana Dharma: The Eternal Path” Hinduism is the world’s 3rd largest religion. It is the oldest religion still practiced. This will be a necessarily brief glimpse at this religion which is as vast as the universe.

### Quotes - From Celia Friedenthal

Nature’s music is never over; her silences are pauses, not conclusions.

Mary Webb, English write & poet, 1917

The book of nature is a fine and large piece of tapestry rolled up, which we are not able to see all at once, but must be content to wait for the discovery of its beauty and symmetry little by little, as it gradually comes to be unfolded.

Robert Boyle, English natural philosopher & chemist, 1690

### Announcements

#### **President’s Message – Ann Barefield**

Dear UUFMC Members and Friends:

As we move into our new building, we have to make some procedural changes. We are aware that change is stressful. However, we are asking that you try the following procedures for a while to see if they work. If you have serious concerns, please let the Board members know and we will call a congregational meeting to discuss them.

(1) The **Forum** and the **Sunday Service** will be held in the same room. Therefore, it will be important for members and friends who arrive before the Forum is over to enter the meeting room without talking or remain outside the room until the Forum is over.

(2) We would like to try the following **coffee schedule** to avoid noise in the meeting room while the Forum is in session and to avoid spilling coffee on the floor and our beautiful new chairs. Coffee will be served in the back of the meeting room at the kitchen serving window from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. prior to the Forum and in the same location from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. following the service.

(3) Two **tables with chairs** around them will be set up in the back portion of the meeting room for those who have physical conditions that require them to sit down to drink their coffee before the Forum or after the service.

(4) There has been a suggestion from one of the long time members that we **change our meeting time** to have the Forum at 9:30 a.m. and the service at 10:30 a.m. to allow members a bit more time to get ready and get to the Fellowship on Sunday morning. This will be discussed at the **June 4<sup>th</sup>** Board meeting. If you have strong feelings about this topic one way or the other please let one of the Board members know.

(5) As you enter our lovely new meeting room, the **Forum meeting place** will be on the left side of the room. You will have access to the screen and the audio visual equipment from that location. We have a very good sound system and it will be very easy to see a DVD or hear a speaker from that location.

(6) There will be a **scheduling calendar** for the building use and individuals will need to get their meetings on that calendar if they plan to use the building for a meeting. Andrea Coburn will be in charge of the calendar and checking in and out the keys. Please be sure to schedule your meetings ahead of time with Andrea so you

will not be disappointed that someone else is already using the building. There are many regularly scheduled meetings that will have priority. For example, the Finance Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., the Board meets on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m., and the choir meets on Saturday afternoon. If you are a committee chairperson, please get your meeting on the calendar if you plan to use the building.

(7) **Parking** will be directed by four of our members for several Sunday mornings until we become familiar with the parking patterns. Please watch for Dick Bassette, Mike Donato, Ed Hord, and Bob Zannelli and follow their directions. These guys have been working very hard at the building lately and we cannot afford to do without them. So, please do not run them down. Our parking lot is sod and not concrete. However, we do have a drop-off driveway and handicap parking places that are concrete for those who have difficulty walking. **Please do not** leave your car parked on the drop-off driveway that will keep others from being able to use it.

There are several **special activities** that will be occurring in our new building in the next few weeks. **The first service will be at 10:00 a.m. on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Memorial Concert for Bob Barefield will be at 3:00 p.m. on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Dedication service will be at 10:00 a.m. on June 1<sup>st</sup>.** I hope you will be able to join us for these special events.

There will still be a few things that are not completed at our new home when we move in. However, we do have the **certificate of occupancy** and the Program/Sunday Service Committee has planned a service of recognition for May 25<sup>th</sup> and a dedication service for June 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope you will all be there to celebrate. We will not be moving all the things from the storage building until next week. So, do not be surprised to see some empty rooms or spaces on May 25<sup>th</sup> when we have our first service. I am sure we have all moved into a new home in which we had to wait to furnish a room or two. Or, maybe we just wanted to live in it for a while to see what we really needed. If you are interested in giving gifts or memorials to the new building, you should contact the co-chairs of the Gift/Memorial Committee, Fran Marciano and Mary Ann Donato. If you cannot reach them, you are also welcome to contact members of the Board of Trustees and we will get the message to them..

Many people have worked very hard to get the building ready for this move and we will be recognizing all of them on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Virtually everyone in the congregation has helped in one way or the other and we are grateful for all you have done and will continue to do to make this a place of which we can be proud. **Join us in our new home on Sunday!!!!**

**June Board of Trustees Meeting** – The Board will meet at the new building on **June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** Please send your agenda items to Ann Barefield as soon as possible so the agenda can be shared with the congregation in the update next week.

**Board Retreat** – The Board Retreat has been scheduled for Friday, **June 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at our new home. Jolaine Jones-Pokorney will be conducting the retreat and the Leadership Team (committee chairs and co-chairs) has been invited to join the Board for this retreat. Jolaine teaches in the Leadership School at the Mountain (UU Retreat Center) and she will be sharing some of that information with the Board and the Leadership Team. If you are a Leadership Team member and plan to attend the retreat, please e-mail Ann Barefield as soon as possible. You should have received an e-mail with the details several days ago.

### **Diocese of Orlando honors Carle Clarke and others**

The Diocese of Orlando had a 3 day convention in Orlando. They gave out various awards. Ten individuals received an awards for non-Catholics who had helped the church. It was nice to know her program is valued by them. Carole created and conducted very successful classes for Spanish speaking folks.

### **Journaling Toward Joy**

w/ Rene Zenaida and Rev. LoraKim Joyner

**Saturday May 31, 2008**

**9:00am until 6:00pm**

Social and Communal dinner following

One-day journaling retreat at the Micanopy home of fellow UUG members

David Etherington and Jeff Dunn.  
Explore Journaling as spiritual practice and as a tool for personal growth.

Agenda to follow.

The size of the group will be limited, so please RSVP to [reneezen@bellsouth.net](mailto:reneezen@bellsouth.net) or 352-374-37103 by **May 24, 2008.**

### Please ask the following question – Rita Ridgard

I am currently updating information to our UU newspaper ads, I have the Daily Sun, The Ocala Star banner and the South Marion Citizen covered.

If anyone knows of a paper in which we **currently** have a weekly ad, please let me know so that I can make any necessary information changes. Thank You!

Rita

[robrita@yahoo.com](mailto:robrita@yahoo.com)

### Cruise News

As of May 5th, we have **50** people signed up for this January 18, 2009 cruise . We have room for 6 more people on the bus. Call Anita Noble at AAA to make your reservation. Talk to Pete Jarmer or Rona Gold for details.

Your Building Fund needs YOU to sign up for our 10 day **January 18<sup>th</sup> 2009** relaxing, enjoyable cruise to intriguing sights to Aruba, Curacao, the Panama Canal, Costa Rica and a private island. Our first cruise brought in \$2,450 to the building fund and the second one brought in \$2,850. Let's exceed that amount - your help is critical. Make your reservation now to be certain you can get the type of cabin you want because Panama cruises are very popular. Call Anita Noble at AAA, 352-753-2500-Ex. 2259 - your reservation can be handled by phone. Talk to Pete Jarmer or Rona Gold for more details.

### Cares & Concern – Marti Bassette

The **Care and Concerns** co-chairs need to know about anyone that is ill, home bound, or hospitalized. For anyone in the Top of the World area notify Jeanne Collins, 352-291-2925. In The Villages Marti Bassette, 259-4503.

### June - UU & YOU! Allie Gore

**Important UU & You information** .... Please read.

Beginning in June we will have UU & You in our new building. Over the past 18 months we have had a choice of nights and at least two locations where we could attend. We will now have one evening for UU & You and will hold the gathering in the building. We need your input as to which evening to schedule UU & You.

Allie Gore is standing in for Carolyn Denison this summer so please respond to [indigo8062@earthlink](mailto:indigo8062@earthlink) with your preference Wednesday or Thursday evening.

Look for the signup sheet Sunday mornings where you can also express your preference. Thank-you. Allie

### June - Separate Tables – Jeanne Collins

When: **June 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30**

Where: **Amigos'** (Located in the old Villages sales building on the Spanish Springs Square.)

1004 Main St.

The Villages

Spanish Springs

Sign up on clip board

Jeanne Collins 352-291-2925

Please be aware that reservations are made for Separate Tables at a busy time of day for the restaurants. If you have signed up to attend but cannot make the luncheon please contact the host or hostess so the restaurant can be notified. Thank-you for your thoughtfulness.

*Separate Tables is a social event where the men and women have lunch at separate tables. Each group enjoys their own discussions about topics that are important and/or interesting to them. Separate Tables was created to draw the Fellowship members together by allowing them the opportunity to get to know one another better.*

*Signup sheets will be on the table every Sunday until **June 15th**.*

### **Singles Club**

*The Singles Group will go out for lunch on the last Sunday in June - **June 29th**. We will wait until the new building is open for meetings and then the Book Club will set a date. Rona*

### **Book Club**

*See note above.*

### **Sunday Speakers**

*The Program Committee is always looking for speakers for our Sunday services. If you know of a speaker (possibly heard at another church or fellowship or humanist gathering or.....) also if you would like to suggest a topic(s) that you want to present or would like to hear presented; please contact a member of the program committee with the pertinent information. Scheduling is done well in advance of the presentation date and is always subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Your input is welcome and appreciated. Program Committee members: Ruth Deussen, Bob Zannelli, Rona Gold, Mary Ann Donato and Allie Gore. Contact info is in our Directory.*

### **Membership Committee**

*Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to learn more?*

*Classes will be forming to discuss the history, principles, and traditions of Unitarian Universalism.*

*Contact Allie Gore at 861-4564 or Andrea Coburn at 751-6673 if you are interested in participating.*

### **Chalice Lighters**

*Our Sunday service chalice lighting and extinguishing is another opportunity to share something which, like our principles, sets a positive tone of acceptance, respect and an appreciation for diversity. The program committee extends an invitation to members and friends to participate in this part of the service. Sign up for a specific Sunday date. Your responsibility is to light the chalice and present a reading and extinguish the chalice and help close the service with another reading. Please see the Chalice Lighters signup sheet, on the info table, any Sunday. Thank you.*

### **Music Committee**

*The choir has retired for the summer, so the Music Committee is looking for individuals who would be willing to sing or play a solo, duet, trio or quartet for a Sunday service in their place.....your music or ours.*

*Also, if you can play either regular or digital piano and would like to play for a Sunday service, or for just offertory, please call Ruth Prentice @ 307-6620.*

### **Gift / Memorial Committee**

*The Gift-Memorial Committee now includes John McCabe and Jim Mitchell along with co-chairs Mary Ann Donato and Fran Marciano. Giving a gift to the Fellowship is a wonderful way to memorialize a loved one, to honor a special person, to mark a life cycle event or to provide a needed item for the Fellowship. For more information, please contact one of the committee members.*

*Mary Ann 751-7543; Jim 307-4670; John 347-0244; Fran 430-3109*

## Forum

The "Forum" which meets at 9:00 prior to the Sunday service is always looking for good ideas for presentations. The purpose of the Forum is to provide our members and friends with information on a particular topic. More importantly it is to provide an opportunity for us to interact with each other and thereby broaden our knowledge of a whole host of topics. If you have a particular slant on something that you would be willing to present please let Jim or Millie Mitchell or me, Jim McIntosh, know about it. If you know of someone with such a topic that would be able to present, let us know that to. If you have a topic that you think would be important to discuss don't keep it to yourself. We're looking forward to hearing from you.  
Jim McIntosh

## Happy Birthday Notice

Olson, Don*	June	1
Scheffer, Karl*	June	6
Pelletier, Linda	June	12
Ridgard, Rita*	June	21
Pearsall, Lane	June	24
Dauhn, Bob	June	26
Olson, Eleanor*	June	26
Villella, Morgan	June	26
Gold, Rona*	June	27

## Getting to know us.



**SHIRLEY LOEBEL**

In 2003, when Shirley and Ken Loebel first came to the UUFMC, they were meeting in the Silver Springs Shores building. Shirley noticed that nobody was playing the piano. She mentioned that she had a small keyboard as she wanted to get back into music again. Dottie O'Hara handed her a hymnal and said "Here, take this back to Wisconsin with you, practice and come play for us next year!" And she did.

The Loebels became Unitarians in 1968 after many moves starting in Seattle, then to Minneapolis, Madison and finally to the Milwaukee area; Shirley had grown up with a Catholic father and a Protestant mother and wanted a place where the family would worship together. They joined the UU Church, Brookfield, Wisconsin where they were active members until last summer when they moved to Illinois to be closer to their daughter and son and their families.

*After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Shirley taught in San Diego one year before returning to Wisconsin after Ken began corresponding with her. A courtship via airmail ended in their wedding the next summer en route to Seattle – 50 years ago next fall.*

*While their children were younger, Shirley substituted in several districts. Her full time job was in a declining enrollment district where she taught nine subjects in four different schools in five years. At that point she entered Marquette Law School but returned to teaching economics to high school seniors for the next thirteen years before retiring in '98. After renting in New Port Richey for four years they moved to Del Webb Spruce Creek CC and became "snowbirds".*

*Shirley's personal high moments are the several musicals and plays she was in with the Waukesha Wisconsin Civic Theater. She played piano in high school, sung in choirs and did folk music while in college. And the UU choir was a part of her life for forty years.*

*"Playing for the Fellowship has benefited me," she says, and she hopes the music has helped provide an added dimension to the services. She rejoices in the fact that Ruth Prentice is here and that she hoped for choir is becoming a reality. When the Loebels return north for the summer, they will keep the Fellowship in their thoughts – and Shirley will again search for music for next year.*

### **UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS**

*Joan Lund June, 2008*

*The month of June is upon us, when we, the Florida District, are afforded the opportunity and responsibility of hosting our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) General Assembly (GA) in Ft. Lauderdale, June 25-29. I look forward to being with you this year, especially because I was not able to attend the District Annual Meeting in April. For those of you have been to a GA you know what an exhilarating and wonderful experience it is. For the first-timers you will find much to do and learn during our UU days together. This month I am writing about something I touched upon in the lengthy report which can be found on the District website, written after I returned from the April UUA Board of Trustees meeting: a new DVD, "Listening to Experience", produced by the District Services Staff Growth Team.*

*This recently-completed DVD captures the wisdom and experience of twelve ministers from some of the fastest growing UU congregations in our nation who gathered for three days in November 2007 to talk about how to increase the number of Unitarian Universalists in the world. Five thousand copies have been produced, and are being distributed, along with a letter from Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, to UU ministers, seminarians, theological school professors and instructors, and hundreds of key lay and professional leaders throughout the Association. During the conversation among these ministers, they responded to questions posed by the Rev. Alice Mann of the Alban Institute which included:*

- *What is the saving message of your congregation?*
- *How does your congregation help people move inward and outward on their spiritual journey, and how does this relate to congregational growth?*
- *What institutional, organizational, and practical nuts and bolts need to exist in order for a congregation to grow and keep growing?*
- *What are the obstacles or roadblocks to growth?*

*This is an excellent DVD for ministers and lay leaders to watch together over several meetings and benefit from the wisdom of these ministers. A list of questions to discuss, the same ones that served as the basis for the conversation in November, is included in the packaging, as are the names of the participating ministers.*

*If you would like a copy of the "Listening to Experience" DVD contact Heather Bond, District Services Administrator, [hbond@uua.org](mailto:hbond@uua.org). Again, I look forward to being with you in June. In the meantime if you have questions, concerns, or just wish to talk about "something UU" call me at 813-931-9727 or email [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org).*

# ***UUFMC***

***Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County***

***512 Downers Grove***

***The Villages, FL 32162***



***Sign up to receive your newsletter via e-mail instead of snail mail  
Send your request to [billcoburn@thevillages.net](mailto:billcoburn@thevillages.net)***