



COMMUNITY NEWS

November 2007

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

VOL. XII ISSUE 10

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

“Knocked for a Loop,” is the only phrase that seems to fit my feelings, and I’m sure the feelings of many others in our church, at the sudden illness that overtook our beloved Lloyd. In thinking on the phrase, I wondered what it really meant, so of course I Googled it. Turns out it comes from some comic strips of the first half of the 1900s – where a person would be pushed hard and then roll over in the shape of a loop.

Anyway, I’ve felt stunned and found myself wondering what our church would ever do without Lloyd and Laurie – they are such a vital component of our church life. I’m very heartened by Kelly’s emails assuring us he’s making great progress, and by the fact that the Dunham children have been so available to their folks at this difficult time.

As a very small church, I hope this great misfortune for all of us will remind us how valuable each member and friend really is, and cause us to have ever more appreciation for the folks who make up our church. And that includes you, dear reader!

As I am writing this, I’m looking forward to the “Harvest Festival” being planned by our CUUPs group. I must express appreciation to Babajji for her energy and dedication in even wanting to put on this party, and for coming up with a politically correct name for it! It will be in the past as you read this, so I can only say I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy this seasonal fest with some of our church members and others from the larger community, many being Wiccans and other Pagans.

Then soon we will move on into the Thanksgiving season, with a turkey dinner being planned by Shirley Belleff on Sunday, November 19. She and a small group offered to cook for us, and we will have a seasonal service coordinated by Carmen Rivera. Thanksgiving as you know is a particularly American holiday and its origins are all mixed up in Puritanism, freedom of religion, patriotism, celebrating plenty, family and football. My “Irish son” is complaining because as they don’t celebrate Thanksgiving there, they can’t get a decent turkey, they don’t get a day off, a big concert was planned that he has to be in charge of, and he won’t even be able to watch any games!

Then we can look forward to our Christmas service. I sat at a table with Becky Rule and Rachel Welch, as they went through music suitable for violin and harp in a UU Christmas service. I’m sure looking forward to that!

We are so blessed with people willing and able and talented to do so much for our church. Even if you don’t feel you can throw a party, or cook, or play beautiful music, we always need help with people to attend our services, greet our visitors, help eat the food, and appreciate the music. I sure hope you will want to come to our services on Sundays and our other festive events as we move into the holiday season.

Meanwhile, let’s all keep praying, sending positive thoughts, meditating and doing whatever we can in the way of help for Lloyd and Laurie.

Suzanne Ronneau

Inside this issue:

The California Fires 2

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS 2

Treasurer’s Report 3

UU Christian Fellowship 3

Caring and Sharing 5

R G & E 4

Month of Sundays 6

Calendar 7

The California Fires

Dear Friends,

Once again we are called on to help each other. We are reminded that part of our Unitarian Universalist tradition is that we are connected not only in each congregation but we that have a tie to each other beyond the walls of each congregation. The fires in southern California are devastating many of our communities. Not only are people losing homes but many people are affected by the smoke and the disruption of their lives. It is wonderful how each congregation has responded to help. We have set up the PSWD Fire Relief Fund Panel . We know people from at least 8 congregations have evacuated and that the San Diego area has been most impacted but UUs from other congregations may have lost homes.

You can help by sending a donation to the PSWD Fire Relief Fund. These funds will go (in order) to UU congregations in need, UU families and individuals in need, community groups our congregations are working with who serve those most in need, and other groups working with those most in need. We also realize that the impact of these fires will last for months and years, and we want to be in a place to help both short term and over the long haul.

You can help by sending your check to:
Pacific Southwest District
Fire Relief Fund
2052 Norma Street
Oxnard, CA 93036.

The UUA who will accept credit card donations on behalf of the PSWD Fire Fund at <http://tinyurl.com/ytfz3f>

Thank you, Ken Brown
District Executive Pacific Southwest District

Inside Story Headline

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

by Joan Lund

With thanks to Helen Bishop and Rick Childs I offer some thoughts.

When one joins an organization they are making a commitment and public statement in agreement with the mission/vision of the organization. Membership usually means a stated financial contribution and the privilege of voting on issues of importance to the organization. Even though congregational meetings may be tedious they represent grassroots democracy. Then there is knowledge that membership in a congregation means connection to the larger UU world, standing for our liberal religious beliefs at the national and sometimes global level.

On another significant level one who joins a UU congregation knows the feeling of a shared and sacred commonality with who we are and our purpose of spiritual enrichment. Joining sets in motion new forces for spiritual growth and opens new pathways and experiences that will greatly expand spiritual and personal growth. Membership brings the rich personal experiences of the new member, their commitment to the future of the congregation, and their spiritual gifts to share, thus broadening and enriching the congregation. Membership in a Unitarian Universalist congregation is a rich and fulfilling experience.

Being a member of a UU congregation requires as much “inreach” as outreach, for the



Trustee Tidbits, cont...

development of a strong Unitarian Universalist identity is one way to ensure that adults stay involved and that youth and young adults seek guidance and comfort from their Unitarian Universalist religious homes when needed. A congregation needs the ability to provide both authentic personal relationships and religious resources to engage the mind and spirit at the deepest levels. Membership in a UU congregation is an ongoing journey that does not stop when one "signs the book." Membership means involvement in shared ministry in a vibrant spiritual community and witnessing our faith to the world.

As you know, I want to hear from you with your concerns, questions, comments etc.

I can be reached at :

jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.

**Treasurer's Report**

We grew our building fund by an additional \$1,000 through September. Most of that came from the maturation of one CD. However some of you did respond to my plea to budget the building fund in your monthly allocation to the church. I believe we can start looking seriously at property when our building accounts reach \$100,000 It is currently at \$31,400. I will be sending letters to everyone soon as to how much you have invested to date. Congress passed a ruling, effective only for 2006 and 2007, that you can have your minimum distribution check sent directly to a charity of your choice. Mine this year will be CUUC. The money thus will not be income I have to pay taxes on as it has been in past years.

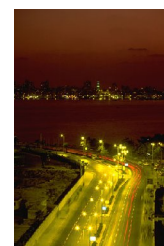
Our checking account balance was \$2,736 as of 10/20/07.

We've collected 42% of our pledges for the year. Our monthly income is coming close to breaking even with our expenses. I am not yet concerned but will monitor this closely.

Pat Gadban

UU Christian Fellowship**UUCF WILL MEET NOVEMBER 17TH**

The place is undetermined, the subject as well. However, the meeting will occur! During the absence of Lloyd and Laurie, Charley Barcelo has stepped up to the plate and will be formulating the details in association with other UUCF attendees. He will be letting us know via e-mails and the Sunday Bulletin when everything is in order.



**Adult R G & E**

You are invited to attend the 1st session of
“Building Your Own Theology”
Sunday, January 13, 2008
in Chapman Hall

Please bring a bag lunch to eat following church.

Interactive study from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

1st meeting will include nuts and bolts decisions regarding dates/times/locations for our
“reconstruction projects.”

This course is offered by the

**Committee of Adult Growth
and Religious Education**

Julie Smith- Dary, Chair



Caring & Sharing

Update on Lloyd Dunham: You may be aware that Lloyd was hospitalized again due to seizure activity. Doctors state that he has not had a stroke and the seizure activity has diminished; they expect Lloyd to recover in a period of months with rehabilitation (Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy) already underway. Lloyd should be home again by the time you this article goes to print. Contact Audrey Barcelo if you would like to prepare a meal for delivery to the Dunham family.

Dru Synal sends thanks for loving thoughts of healing, care and support. She has recovered fully from her surgery and was happy to host our U.U. Christian Fellowship meeting on October 20th (a great success! We hope to see you at November's meeting!), for which she cooked her famous Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings (Now it feels like Autumn!)...

The Cullisons ask that you please take time to root for UCF as "their" team could use the support (Bud "adopted" the UCF football team in 1979 when his son was the Star Quarterback, and the rest is - literally - history)!

Jane Field tells this story: The front desk clerk at the hotel where Jane manages the breakfast buffet asked for her help when a stray cat appeared at the hotel's front entry. Jane phoned her son, Rob Field, who picked up a cat carrier from a nearby discount store and brought it to the hotel to aid Jane in rescuing the cat. After a visit to a local veterinarian for shots and a much-needed check-up, the lovely tabby became a temporary member of the Field family. Shortly thereafter a nice couple visiting our area from Boca Raton engaged Jane in conversation about their love for animals (they had an Only Cat at home, undoubtedly sitting lonely by the pool anxious for their return). The result: not long afterwards the lucky tabby got the opportunity to wave her paw goodbye to her kind benefactor Miss Jane as she settled into her new parents' fabulous luxury automobile for a comfortable ride to a new home, a new playmate, and loving care: Quite a Cinderella story!

Barbara Jean Smith also recently discovered a stray cat at her workplace. As she tells it, "A sweet handsome 'tuxedo cat' (black and white) with the longest legs and tail I've ever seen and the softest fur - and little white boots. I said, 'Hi, Bootsie,' and he decided to follow me around - and he has ever since. He's moved into my home and now he thinks he owns the place! He & Mamasan are getting along fine. I cannot imagine what I ever did without him; He's probably the reincarnation of 'Cocoa Puffs', the great Love of My Life I lost a few years back."

On a related note, My own darling Hugo has just turned 16. This is fairly elderly for a cat but I have seen him for some years as an Angel lent to me for a time by the will of a most Benevolent Creator (if you see "blond" hairs on my clothes that's where they are coming from!). I believe pets can truly channel the power of Love from the Spirit Realm and Hugo does this every day. He is my Pet Therapist and I shall be eternally grateful for His love.

As always, we'd love to hear YOUR stories: so please send your contributions for the "Caring and Sharing" Column to: joewolfarth@yahoo.com

Namaste!

Joe Wolfarth, Trustee

And from Lloyd himself:

I'm home -- again -- finally! After returning to Mayo (St. Luke's Hospital) for a week and then fifteen days at Florida Hospital - Oceanside - Rehab (Ormond Beach), I've finally made it home! It has been quite a "ride" and I'm still wobbly on my feet. However the implant is in place and even without it yet turned on, I have a much steadier right hand!

Thank you all for your concern, your prayers, your good wishes, your cards, etc. We are grateful, too, to the members of our church for meals. I am grateful to my wife, Laurie, our four "children" and their families and my brother Mac for the time and travel to be at my bedside through the crisis and the recovery.

Next week we return to Mayo for turning on the deep brain stimulator and for fine tuning.

Daily I get stronger!

Lloyd

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

**All services are held at 4:00 pm in Chapman Hall
Located behind the UCC at the corner of Faulkner & Washington, New Smyrna Beach**

November 4 - Souper Sunday. The Rev. Jim Willis will be join us again for part 2 of his study, "Creation, Intelligent Design and Evolution". Charley Barcelo will lead worship.

November 11 - Rev. Jim Farinet joins us for a talk called "The Reluctant God". Shirley Beleff will lead the service with Connie Hart at the piano.

November 18 - On this Thanksgiving Sunday we will enjoy a "Communal Dinner" as part of the service! Carmen Rivera is the facilitator of the service, Shirley Beleff & crew have done the cooking, and Becky Rule will play Thanksgiving Hymns for us. A \$10 donation is suggested to cover costs, and reservations are also requested, so please see Shirley to let her know you plan to be there.

November 25 - Mark Winwood from Yalaha, Lake County to speak with us about the Buddhist concept of Karma . Mark is publisher and editor of "Yalaha! The Journal for Conscious Community Living". Barbara Jean Smith will lead the service, and Julie Smith-Dary will delight us from the piano.

Looking ahead to December:

Dec 2 - Souper Sunday with Dr. Donald Musser

Dec 9 - Rev. Mark Spivey

Dec 16 - Musical-Hannukah/Solstice/Christmas with Becky Rule & Rachel Welch

Dec 23 - Barbara Jean and (hopefully) Lloyd? Annual Christmas/Solstice service

Dec 24 - The UUCF Christmas Eve Service

Dec 30 - Joe Wolfarth

Volunteer Lineup



GREETER SCHEDULE:

*Greeters are the ones
who start your
Sunday with a smile.*

November 4th: Julie Smith-Dary
November 11th: Pat and Bud Cullison
November 18th: Libby Hilderbrandt
November 25th: Audrey Barcelo

HOSPITALITY:

*Sharing conversation
and
'communion'*

Audrey Barcelo
Help!
Shirley Beleff
Ginny Fregin





**COMMUNITY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

P.O. Box 238389,
Port Orange, FL 32123

386-409-8802
communityuu2@msn.com

December Newsletter Deadline

November 20, 2007

Please submit items by e-mail to
Barbara Jean Smith:
babajji@msn.com
and communityuu2@msn.com

CUUC is a Welcoming Congregation

NOVEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

11-07	7:30 pm	Social Justice Movie Night	At the Barcelo's Contact: Charley at charaud@aol.com
11-10	10:00 am	HAC Volunteers Feeding our homeless	At the Homeless Assistance Center Contact: Charley at charaud@aol.com
11-13	5:30 pm	BOT Meeting	Location 'TBA' Contact: Suzanne at ronneau@bellsouth.net
11-17	5:00 pm	UU Christian Fellowship Monthly Meeting:	Location 'TBA' Contact: Charley at charaud@aol.com
11-18	4:00 pm	Dinner of Thanks Our Thanksgiving Communal Dinner Service	At Chapman Hall Contact Shirley at srbishere@peoplepc.com
11-18	4:00 pm	HUM & HAC Collection Sharing food with others	At Chapman Hall during the service Contact: Charley at charaud@aol.com
11-20	tba	Worship Committee Monthly Meeting	Location 'TBA' Contact Shirley at srbishere@peoplepc.com
11-21	7-9:00 pm	Mistletoe CUUPs Monthly Meeting: Topic: The Art & Science Of Ritual	At Chapman Hall Contact Barbara Jean at MistletoeCUUPs@msn.com