

**The Newsletter of the  
Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
February 2013**

**OUR WHOLE LIVES—  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Watch for upcoming OWL classes to happen within the next few weeks:

OWL for grades 4-6

OWL for grades 7-9

The schedule is yet to be established and there will be two parent meetings in February (dates to be announced). In the mean time, here are a few insights into OWL (our whole lives):

This is a curriculum which helps children learn about and discuss the physical and emotional changes of puberty. OWL values include self worth, sexual health, responsibility and justice and inclusivity. This is also a wonderful opportunity for you, parents or care giver, to be actively involved as your child explores values, communication and decision making. Look for more information to come about the OWL program and proposed schedule.

**Coffee House is Back!**

**Wednesday, February 6th at 7pm**



Our Coffee House is back after several months' break for the holidays! Come out and enjoy all the fun as our performers share their talents. Live music, performers of all varieties,

lively conversation, games, fun, fellowship...all in one night! It's hard to beat!

There will be coffee and tea available, and you're invited to bring snacks to share. Bring your own drinks (of the leaded or unleaded variety).

There will **NOT** be childcare provided for this event.

*The First Annual Valentine's Day Gala,  
Celebrating 30 Days of Love!*

The Welcome Congregation Ministry, in collaboration with the Young Adults group, welcome the entire BBUUC family to a fun night of dancing, drinks, food, and merriment. Bring friends and family, and join us on the dance floor as we celebrate the end of 30 Days of Love, and recognize our members who made the commitment!



**GUEST AT YOUR TABLE**



Dovetailing with the end of Standing on the Side of Love, on Valentine's Day (Feb 17 for us) we will begin a month long program called Guest at Your Table. This is a UU Service Committee (UUSC) program that offers help to those in need world wide (including USA, of

course). Each family will be given a small paper box to put on your dinner table. Every night, we are encouraged to drop some coins into the box, to cover the cost of having an extra "guest at your table." On March 17, the boxes will be collected and the money sent to the UUSC with your address. With a donation of \$40 or more, (seniors, \$20, youth \$10) you will receive a subscription to the fabulous magazine, UU World, which connects us at BBUUC to the world of love and service around us. For more information, google "uua guest at your table"

## Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, **February 13th** at 11:30am

The BBUUC Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30, at Pengree's Restaurant in Orange Park (556 Kingsley Avenue) for food and fellowship. All are welcomed to join us! Please contact Frances Kennicutt or Beth Christiansen, the office administrator, at [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org) if you plan to join us, so that a table can be reserved at the restaurant.

Directions to Pengrees: From the exit at 295 and 17 (Park Ave) just west of the Buckman Bridge, you will turn off into 17/Park Ave) south past Wells Road and proceed towards Kingsley. Turn right onto Kingsley and get into the left hand lane as early as possible as you will turn in just three short blocks on Kingsley. Turns left at the light on Plainfield and then turn into the parking lot. You are there!

## Comfort Craft Group

**Wednesday, February 20th, at 6:30pm**

Are you a crafter? Do you knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, weave, or do any number of other crafts? Do you enjoy sharing your crafts with others? This group gets together to share crafting time with the goal of sharing the final projects with those in the congregation who could use some comfort—who need a reminder that that the congregation cares.

If you're interested in sharing your time, talents and love in this way, please join us. If you are a beginner, you are more than welcome to come as well. There are people here who may be able to help you and who will cheer you on! All are welcome! For more information, please contact Beth Christiansen, at [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org).



## BIRTHDAYS

02/04	John Sheffield
02/04	William Cromar
02/06	Ellen Miceli
02/08	Lucienne Kirk
02/09	Lynn Wadley
02/24	Phyllis Higginbotham
02/28	Chris Lynch



## Anniversaries

02/04	Barry & Sara Heath
02/14	Bob & Diane Williamson
02/16	Lisa & Scott Cromar

**Attention BBUUYA!  
First Saturday Fun  
has been postponed  
from February 2nd to  
February 9th!!!**



### Fellowship Hosts

Feb 3	Ariel Cook
Feb 10	Linda Gillespie and Melinda Kluding
Feb 17	
Feb 24	
Please sign up at church!	



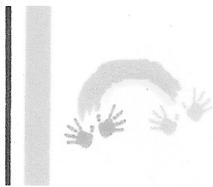
### Greeters/Ushers

Feb 3	The Cologeros
Feb 10	Linda Gillespie & Melinda Kluding
Feb 17	Pam Edwards- Roiné
Feb 24	Rachel Bauer and The Novotny Girls



### Board Hosts

Feb 3	Chris Bak
Feb 10	Gina Norstedt
Feb 17	Melinda Kluding
Feb 24	Eileen Morrison



## **African Rural Schools Foundation**

227 Oakview Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15218; 412-731-2834

[www.africanruralschools.org](http://www.africanruralschools.org) Rev. Dr. Maurine C. Waun, Founding Sponsor

November 25, 2012

Marilyn Smart, Chair, Lifespan Religious Education Committee  
Buckman Bridge UU Church of Jacksonville, FL  
P.O. Box 844  
Orange Park, FL 32067

Dear Marilyn and the Teens of BBUUC,

I couldn't believe my eyes when I opened the envelope containing your fabulous check for \$600 in Friday's mail. Wow. Your teens must be really motivated and energetic. How great is that?? I'm not sure how you found out about the African Rural Schools Foundation, but we are extremely pleased that you designated the fruits of your labor to us at such a time as this. You are amazing!

Right now, the school in Uganda is working to solve a water emergency where floods during the rainy season are rushing through the campus and washing away mortar in the buildings; and where the lack of water is causing a severe hardship during the dry season for the 400 students who attend the school.

Our Liaison Officer is now finalizing plans to begin the digging of trenches to divert the water into storage tanks. Of course, this process will take time, but we are confident that eventually this matter will be resolved.

So you see, your contribution will go a long way toward helping us with this worthy project.

Thanks again enormously!

Gratefully,



Maurine C. Waun

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) are a part of a worldwide effort to eliminate extreme poverty and inequality. The US has pledged through the United Nations to support these goals. Learn more about the MDGs at [www.unmilleniumproject.org](http://www.unmilleniumproject.org). Everyone can contribute in one way or another.

# What is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)?



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. We envision a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

We also engage local communities through our service-learning program, JustWorks, which introduces participants to the work of our domestic and overseas partners — who are often on the front lines of addressing social-justice issues.

Our work is built on the conviction that all people are entitled to basic human rights, which transcend divisions of class, race, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

We rely on our members and supporters — people just like you — to fund our programs. Anyone wishing to support human rights and social justice is welcome to join us.

UUSC is an associate member of the [Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](http://www.uua.org), but receives no general financial support from the UUA. Neither do we receive funding from federal or state governments or institutions, ensuring our independent voice.

Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, UUSC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

(Information from [www.uusc.org/about\\_uusc](http://www.uusc.org/about_uusc))

## Atheism and Agnosticism: Theological Diversity in Unitarian Universalism

Atheists are people who do not believe in a god, while Agnostics are people who think that we cannot know whether a god exists. Both groups are welcome in Unitarian Universalism.

Today, a significant proportion of Unitarian Universalists do not believe in any type of god. Our congregations are theologically diverse places where people with many different understandings of the sacred can be in religious community together.

We are drawn together by the seven principles and Purposes which BBUUC prints on the back of its Order of Service each week. These Principles and Purposes can also be found on the UUA website:

<http://www.uua.org>.

You can learn more about Atheism and Agnosticism on UUA's website.

### About our February 24th speaker:

The Rev. Carmen M. Emerson was born and raised in rural Arkansas, and began questioning the discrepancies between Sunday morning religion and Monday-Saturday religion at an early age, especially with respect to the poverty, racism and sexism oppressions prevalent in her Delta community.



She first found a spiritual home and an outlet for her desire to make a difference at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando. She has been the minister of the Meadville Unitarian Universalist Church in Northwestern Pennsylvania since 2010.

Carmen says: “I have chosen to become a UU minister because for me, that choice is the choice for the gifts I have to offer, and the well lived life I want to live and give. It is the work of a lifetime and I hope for a ministry in a congregation that wants to go deep, living well lived, transformational lives, together.”

## Kids and Koffee

This is the time of the annual plea from the congregation that parents tend to their children during coffee hour. Some have asked the LRE Committee to "take care of" it, and we would like to clarify that after LRE ends at 11:45, parents and care-givers are responsible for their children, not LRE. All of us can encourage the children to play outside, encourage them to walk, not run, inside the building, and realize that the classroom hallway is not a "runway"!



When the LRE teachers keep the children for an additional 15 minutes, that gives parents that much more social time after the service. Please understand that, in the case of a scheduled 12 noon meeting, it also means that the LRE teachers have only 15 minutes to tidy up the classrooms, have a conversation with a parent, or spend extra time when a child needs it. We are doing our best to help facilitate this, and are grateful for your help."

With this in mind, we are asking for donations of outdoor toys, like soccer balls and jump rope, from the congregation. These will be used by the children outdoors. Please put these toys in a bin in the Spirit Play bathroom marked OUTSIDE TOYS. After LRE, this bin will be placed outside the back door; children are asked to put the toys back in the bin as they go home. We are also asking for volunteers to supervise this outdoor play. Parents of children: Joani may be asking you to volunteer to help supervise these activities! Again, thanks for your help

If you cannot find it in  
yourself, where will  
you go for it? -  
Chinese proverb

## BEACON Youth

Recently, the BBUUC Beacon group has been very busy! Between planning our own CON, coming up in May, and attending other CONs, we've had quite a bit to do! On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, we attended a CON hosted by the Gainesville Beacon group. Five churches from the district were in attendance, adding up to approximately 50 attendees, including advisors. On February 1, we will be attending a CON hosted by Tallahassee, and are hoping for similar attendance.

Our own group, currently one of the largest in the district, with approximately 13 CON-going members and advisors, has recently challenged the rest of the congregations to see who, at each CON, can bring the most attendees. This challenge began as incentive to get the Beacon groups more actively attempting to bring in more members, and as some ongoing friendly competition. The first CON where this enacted was the Gainesville CON, where Gainesville, with 14 attendees, won what we have named the Pride of Beacon, a lighthouse that Jacksonville brought home, as Runner-Up with 12 attendees, because Gainesville could not commit to being present at Tallahassee's upcoming CON.

The Pride of Beacon, which is plaqued as "Our Beacon of Pride, the Pride of Beacon", can be seen in the High School classroom, where Beacon meets Wednesday nights from 7 until 8:30. All youth aged 12 to 20 are welcome to come and join in our activities any week!

## Do you Pray?

In a desperate moment, I cried out for help, and I was answered. Some years later I am still a humanist—I believe that religion is about this world, about bringing justice and mercy and the power of love into life here and now. Yet I am a humanist who prays, who begins each morning with devotional readings and a time of silence and prayer. Why do I do this?

I need a quiet time.

I need to express my gratitude.

I need humility.

I pray because—alone—I am not enough and also I am too much.

I express gratitude for the gift of aliveness.

I assert my oneness with you and all humankind and all creation.

When I pray, I acknowledge that God is not me.

—Roger Cowan



# Schedule of Services

Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at  
8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244  
Church Phone: (904) 276-3739 • Website: [www.BBUUC.org](http://www.BBUUC.org)  
Check Calendar for information on other programming.

## **February 3: Mark Yount** will present "*My Conservative Values*"

As UUs we celebrate our theological diversity, but we sometimes squirm at our political differences. If the progressives among us look to the values behind conservative politics, though, we might find much in common with our "liberal" values. Drawing on his own experience, our speaker will affirm some "conservative" values in which he finds common ground to inspire our UU voices in the cause of "liberal" religion.

Led by **Annabelle Gallois-Bernos** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

## **February 10: Reverend Jack Ford** will present: "*Grace*"

Someone wrote to me recently: "I keep hearing the word 'grace', whether it's in the song *Amazing Grace* or Wendell Berry's poem ... 'I rest in the grace of the world and am free'. In googling it, I find mostly religious references: ... being the recipient of God's love, in tune with Jesus, etc. For a UU, I would love to know what that word means."

I myself have stumbled over that word 'GRACE' for the longest time. Even as a Baptist I kind of ignored it because I didn't really understand.

Webster says Grace is a special favor, unmerited divine assistance, a virtue coming from God. Grace is "three sister goddesses in Greek mythology who are the givers of charm and beauty." According to the Apostle Paul, God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Is this a concept which has any meaning for us as UUs?

Led by **Sarah Ritzmann** • Accompanied by **Marilyn Smart**

## **February 17: Rev. Billy Thomas** will present "*Four Things that Turn the Mind to Enlightenment*"

The Reverend will present this concept to our congregation, and then invite us to consider the things in our own lives that have helped move us to better understanding and clarity.

Led by: **Deborah Jones** • Accompanied by **Sydney Crisp**

## **February 24: UU Rev. Carmen Emerson** will present: "*First World Problems & Getting to Heaven*"

It has been said that Unitarian Universalism is a class-bound faith. Is this true, or a "self-fulfilling prophecy"? Together we'll consider privilege, classism, and living our UU faith in 21st Century Beloved Community.

Led by: **Linda Mowers** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

# February 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm Even- song	2
3 9am Member- ship Cmte 9am BBUUBF 12pm Facili- ties Cmte	4	5 7pm PR Cmte	6 7pm BEA- CON 7pm Coffee House	7 7pm Welcom- ing Congre- gation Minis- try	8 7pm Even- song	9 BBUUYA First Satur- day Fun (postponed)
10 9am BBUUBF 12pm BBUUYA Lunch 12pm Caring Cmte	11	12 7pm Council Mtg	13 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Steering Cmte	14	15 7pm Even- song	16 7:30pm Val- entine's Day Dance
17 9am BBUUBF 9am LRE Cmte 12pm LRE Fa- cilitator Train- ing	18	19 7pm Worship Cmte	20 7pm BEA- CON 6:30pm Com- fort Shawl Group	21	22 7pm Even- song	23
24 9am BBUUBF 12pm Hospi- tality Cmte	25	26 7pm Board Mtg 7pm BBUUYA	27 7pm BEA- CON 7pm CUUPS	28		



# THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE

Standing on the Side of Love is a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world. Join us for the Thirty Days of Love, a period for intentional action, service, education, and reflection running from January 19 to February 17, 2013.

## *30 Days of Love: A Spiritual Journey for Social Justice*

We are at a transformational moment—struggling to confront our culture of violence and bullying, anxious to see further advancements for LGBTQ equality, and poised to push our leaders to finally enact compassionate, comprehensive immigration reform. Wherever you come from, however you found us, open your heart and lift up your voice during the Thirty Days of Love for a world transformed through the power of love. Take the pledge to join this spiritual journey for social justice! <http://standingonthesideoflove.org>

### **Have you checked out some of the UUA blogs lately?**

The blog [Blue Boat](http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org) is a good one to start with. It talks about youth, young adults, and campus ministries in the broader UUA. It recently had an article about the UUA Board Meeting in Philadelphia in which our own Jeremy Ritzmann took part. [blueboat.blogs.uua.org](http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org)

“Love is the spirit of life, and makes all things live.”

– James Freeman Clarke, Unitarian minister

## The Journey

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