



The Newsletter of the
Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church
October 2012

A Note From Our President:

Six months ago I had the sad task of announcing the retirement of our Director of Religious Education after 10 wonderful years of service. We knew that finding a replacement for her very big shoes would be a challenge. The Board, Lifespan Religious Education Committee and the DRE Search Committee has been busy looking for that replacement ever since.

We were thrilled to have three wonderful & qualified candidates to choose from. I would like to thank our intrepid DRE Search Committee for all their time, effort and thoughtful consideration with this task.

I am happy to report that our search was successful and last week the Board extended an offer of employment to Michael Alexander which he has accepted. We will be holding an official installation for him on Sunday, October 7th, please plan to attend. I'd like to ask you to join me in extending a warm welcome Michael & his family to our church.

Namaste,

Gina

Please Welcome our New Director of Religious Education: Mike Alexander!

Mike Alexander grew up in Houston, TX, and began working with children and teens at Camp Fern in 1992. Since then he has been a youth minister, worship leader, and media director for the United Methodist Church.

Mike is the luckiest guy on earth to be married to Amanda Alexander, an RN at St. Vincents Hospital, and has 5 kids, 4 cats, and a pug named Ham Chow. Mike loves photography, fantasy football, and playing Guitar Hero with his kids. He currently works part time with the Boys and Girls club teaching Arts and Humanities.



The Financial State of BBUUC

How would you feel if we had to go back to having the congregation clean the church every Sunday? What if there were no refreshments or coffee after service? Would you be willing to give up the free babysitting that's available during service and for other events?

These are not steps that we WANT to take, but we are currently spending more than we are taking in, and to continue down this path should raise concern.

BBUUC is short on contributions. During the first two months of the fiscal year we had to spend
{Continued on page 5}

Lunch Bunch Meets

Wednesday, October 10th 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 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!

Reclaiming Spiritual Language: Taking Back Our Common Language and Articulating Our Faith

Do you shudder or cringe when you hear certain religious words, such as faith, pray, church, worship, etc? Or do you simply wish to be able to better articulate our shared faith? This class is aimed at reclaiming our common religious language, letting go of the hurt it may have caused in the past, and using it to better articulate our shared Unitarian Universalist faith when asked the infamous "What is a UU?" question.

Class size is limited to ten participants and is closed after the first session, so please sign up early!

The class will be held October 10– November 21, except October 31, at 7pm. (Listed as RSL-LRE on Calendar)

**I'M SO GLAD I LIVE IN A WORLD
WHERE THERE ARE
OCTOBERS.**

— L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*



BIRTHDAYS

10/07	Barry Mowers
10/08	Betty Forbes
10/08	Luke McKinney
10/11	Isabella Ringgold
10/14	Jennifer Glassman
10/16	Martha Gilliland
10/20	Joani Maskell
10/22	Robert Lopez
10/22	Stephen McCullar
10/24	Jillian Christiansen
10/24	Paul Marquardt



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. Their mission and vision are guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the seven Unitarian Universalist principles that affirm the worth, dignity, and human rights of every person.

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. Their 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.

UUSC relies on their members and supporters to fund their programs. You can become a member of UUSC by making a membership gift. Your contribution will support UUSC's work to advance human rights and promote social justice in the United States and around the world. As a member, you will also join a community of more than 40,000 UUSC supporters who share your ideals. You will also stay up-to-date on human rights issues through regular mailings, action alerts, and a subscription to their newsletter, *Rights Now*. Find out more by visiting their website at www.uusc.org, or calling

You are cordially invited to be part of something wonderful.

“Take a deep breath, center yourself, and imagine a shawl wrapped over your shoulders and across your chest. Close your eyes and listen to that gentle whisper in your ear – a soft voice telling you to let go and trust that everything will be okay and that you are being held in the loving arms of the Creator and in the heart of a caring knitter. This is how it feels to wear a handmade prayer shawl”.

Janet Severi Bristow & Victoria A Cole-Galo
(Founders of ShawlMinistry.com)

We, your BBUUC Caring Committee, would love for you to join us in our latest endeavor, creating comfort/prayer/peace shawls for those in need of a loving hug from a supportive friend. A reminder in troubled times that they are in the thoughts & prayers of their BBUUC family.

This is what we envision:

- A monthly get together (third Wednesday 6-8?) where we can enjoy each other’s company, while using our gifts to help others.

- Knit, crocheted, woven, or quilted shawls for sick, grieving, even celebrating, congregation members as well as local hospitals, domestic violence, and homeless shelters.
- Eventually, we would like to branch out to blankets (baby & lap size), scarves & hats.
- We will provide patterns and some materials, although you are welcome to use your own.
- I will teach anyone interested in contributing to this project how to knit or crochet.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact me.

Lisa Santoni Cromar
SanCrom@gmail.com



YOU NEED NOT THINK ALIKE TO LOVE ALIKE.

- Francis David

CUUPS Samhain Ritual to be held at UNF

The Jacksonville Covenant of UU Pagans will be holding its ritual of the Autumn Equinox on October 31st at 7pm at 1 UNF DR., Jacksonville FL 32224. Everyone is welcome!



Fellowship Hosts

Oct 7	Jillian Christiansen
Oct 14	The Kludings
Oct 21	Eileen Morrison Lee Albright
Oct 28	Erin and Jesse Rogers



Greeters/Ushers

Oct 7	The Crawfords
Oct 14	The Cromars
Oct 21	Devon Norris
Oct 28	Jillian Christiansen and Paul Christenson

NO ONE IS MORE CHERISHED IN THIS WORLD THAN SOMEONE WHO LIGHTENS THE BURDEN OF ANOTHER. THANK YOU.

~Author Unknown



“The Benefit for Un-dead Rights”

Buckman Bridge UU Young Adults (BBUUYA) invite you to celebrate the marginalized, the down-trodden, the unspoken for... The UNDEAD! Join us this October 6th (Saturday night at 7pm) for a fun, family-friendly fund-raising event! The event will help support our Young Adults group and the Teen Travel Fund. We will have a sit-down dinner with live speeches from famous un-dead folk, horror movie trivia, and Halloween-themed-dances! Although it's based around the concept of fictional monsters campaigning for equal rights, the theme of working for equality for those who are different, resonates with our values and principles. Costumes optional.

Economics for Tough Times

Thursday, October 11th at 7pm.

The Debt! More government spending and higher taxes, more government spending and lower taxes! Or less government spending and lower taxes for the wealthy or maybe higher taxes for the wealthy! The Fed needs to act now to fight inflation; the Fed needs to print money. And... the Debt, the Debt, the Debt!

Confused? Come join us and we'll try to decode some of this and we'll do it in plain English—no “econospeak”.

Pam Edwards-Roiné has extensive background in both economics and history, having spent many years teaching at the high school and college levels.

Welcoming Congregation Ministry, Focus on the LGBT community.

The Ministry was formed three years ago as a Task Force, with the mission to help our church become a UU Welcoming Congregation. A Welcoming Congregation “welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender people”. This was accomplished by the congregation’s 100% vote in 2010.

Continuing, the Welcoming Congregation Ministry is tasked with building relationships and fostering awareness of LGBT life, culture, and families within our congregation and the community at large. We do this through activities that encourage acceptance of, understanding of, and respect for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender identity in oneself and others.

We have participated in the Gay Pride parade, the JAS-MYN Friday Night Food Fest donation, the JASMYN Strides for Pride run, the Gay Pride Festival, and the UULA state government lobbying/meeting event in Tallahassee. We have created a table where information is available in pamphlet and book form at church each Sunday, designed and printed a separate pamphlet that we are making available at various LGBT events letting the community know of our church and our Welcoming status. We designed coffee mugs, which we are selling to raise money for our ministry, which we have used to pay for our pamphlets, wristbands, and event fees.

The Welcoming Congregation Ministry has also been tasked with making sure that LGBT sensitivities are maintained in church, social affairs, and celebrations of life at BBUUC.

Meetings are held at the church on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Barbara Bujak facilitates – Please stop by if you are interested in participating!

Upcoming dates:

Oct 13, 2012 Gay Pride Parade (we will march and meet afterwards for dinner). Please contact Barb if you would like to participate. If you can’t march, please come watch the parade in Riverside from 4-6. More details will follow.

Oct 21, 2012 Gay Pride Festival (we will have a booth). This looks like fun for all, In Riverside at the Marketplace, *Sunday 11-9.*

Dec 7, 2012 JASMYN Friday food provision. We'll ask for help from all, details later (we will feed about 50 youth dinner.)

The Financial State of BBUUC (continued from page 1)



Joys and Concerns

...to spend about \$1,200 from cash reserves to cover expenses. This is especially alarming because we did not have a DLRE during the first quarter. We have just hired a new DLRE but not for the number of hours we had hoped for, because we could not justify that in the current financial situation.

If you have already pledged and given this year we thank you sincerely, but from those we've not heard from you may be hearing from us. We believe that while members should support the church, there are other ways than financial. Currently the church pays for the services we've listed above, but that might fall back on the congregation, and that's fine if we have members who are willing to give the gift of self.

Again, those of you who have pledged this fiscal year we thank you tremendously for your generosity. For the 40% who did not return a pledge card or for those who have joined since the pledge drive, please consider what you might be able to pledge in either money or service to sustain the church.

Pledge sheets are available on a table at the back of the sanctuary, or you can email Chris Bak, our Treasurer, at treasurer@bbuuc.org or Topher Christiansen, our Finance Chair, at finance@bbuuc.org.

Sincerely,

Barry Mowers, Bonnie McCullar, Chris Bak,
David Christenson, Don Culpepper, Peg
Christenson, Robert Lopez
and Topher Christiansen

– The Finance
Committee



We extend our sympathy to Alice McKinney on the loss of her mother, Mary Neill; to Dani Slader on the loss of her grandfather, Maurice Bornstein; and to Barry Mowers on the loss of his sister, Gay McCune.

Congratulations to Brenda and John Patterson on the birth of their First grandchild, Elliot Christopher Patterson, born to parents Ian and Emily Patterson. Congratulations to Aunt Ariel too!!

Congratulations to David Dean, film editor of the movie "An Affair of the Heart", now showing in a theater in New York City.

Thoughts and prayers for Pat Ray as she continues to improve at Life Care of Orange Park on Kingsley.

Thoughts and prayers for Bonnie Amons, Chris Jarman's mother, who is also a patient at Life Care of Orange Park.

Thoughts and prayers for Jonnie Long's mother, Mrs. Nina Johnson, who is in the nursing home with Hospice care at Westminster Woods Retirement

Thanksgiving Dinner Feast

Thanksgiving dinner at BBUUC has become an annual tradition. Join our church family for a Thanksgiving Feast and Fellowship on Thursday, November 22. Each year the turkeys are provided by the church and everyone brings side dishes to complete the feast.

We are looking for someone or several someones to host this event. This is an excellent way to get involved with your church community and get to know your fellow congregants better. If you are interested in hosting Thanksgiving dinner at BBUUC please contact Nina Hemmelgarn @ 213-8811 or hemmelsan@aol.com.

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
Check Calendar for information on other programming.

October 7: Marta Varee Pearson will present “***Regaining Civility in an Angry World: a message of awareness & hope highlighting the skills to connect us beyond volatility.***”

Anger & fear have turned us into a people who shout rather than discuss. Communication stops when anger takes over - on a national level, in congregations, at work & in the home. Events make it essential that individuals & congregations deal with this reality by learning & using helpful strategies & tools to move beyond the mask of anger & effect peace in one's own mind. In this sermon, we will identify the core issues beneath the surface of anger and fear in ourselves & in others.

This Service will include the Installation of our new Director of Religious Education.

About our Speaker: Marta is a Unitarian Universalist who brings 30+ years as speaker, trainer and coach. She's trained & coached psychologists & social workers; business executives & staff; teachers, school staff & administrators as well as individuals, couples, foster & other parents. Marta made multiple expert appearances on the Geraldo, Donahue & Sally Jessy Raphael television programs. For more than ten years she has presented sermons to UU Congregations in Maine, Washington state and now Florida.

Led by **Ann Marie Shrader** • Accompanied by **Marilyn Smart**

October 14: Reverend Jack Ford will present: “***Reproductive Justice***”

The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right. This year our General Assembly selected “*Reproductive Justice*” as the 4-year Study Action Issue. Our delegates agreed that “reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally.” Do you? Your Florida November ballot will include Amendment 6, affecting health care options available to women. What does it mean for us?

Led by **Jeremy Ritzmann** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

October 21: Reverend Billy Thomas will present: “***Fruits of the Spirit***”.

A discussion about spirituality can go in so many different directions. Billy will take this opportunity to present his Buddhist interpretation of a New Testament verse from Galatians, and his practice of the six paramitas.

About our speaker: Our friend Billy has delivered many sermons for our congregation. He holds an MA in Christian Education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a practicing Buddhist since 1997.

Led by: **Linda Mowers** • Accompanied by **Eileen Morrison**

October 28: The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans will present: “***A Pagan Perspective: Celebrating the Sacred Circle of Life.***”

Several CUUPS members, including Nikki Bak, Lisa Cromar, CJ Griggs, Gina Norstedt and Tom Townsend will discuss aspects of Paganism and Samhain.

Led by: **Chris Bak** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

October 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>7pm PR</i>	<i>3</i> <i>7pm Life-craft</i> <i>7pm Music Circle</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i>	<i>4</i> <i>7pm Welcoming Congregation Ministry</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>7-10pm Benefit for "Undead Rights"</i>
<i>7</i> <i>9am Membership</i> <i>12pm Facilities</i> <i>12pm Hospitality</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>7pm Council</i>	<i>10</i> <i>11:30am Lunch Bunch</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm RSL-LRE</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i>	<i>11</i> <i>7pm Economics for Tough Times</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <i>4-6pm Jacksonville Gay Pride Parade</i>
<i>14</i> <i>9am Steering</i> <i>12pm Caring</i> <i>12pm BBUUYA Lunch</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>7pm Worship</i>	<i>17</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm RSL-LRE</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>BEACON CON Weekend</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> <i>12pm Social Action</i> <i>11am-9pm Jacksonville Gay Pride Festival</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>7pm Board</i> <i>7pm BBUUYA</i>	<i>24</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm RSL-LRE</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> <i>7pm "Affair of the Heart"</i> <i>BBUUC Screening</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i> <i>Samhain Ritual</i>			



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL SCREENING OF "AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART"



You've been hearing about it for two years -- now come see the award-winning documentary about the surprising relationships between 80s rock icon Rick Springfield and his devoted fans. Editor David Dean invites the BBUUC family to a special one-night screening, direct from its New York theatrical premiere, on Friday night, October 26, at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. There is no admission charge, but please BYOB! The film runs 93 minutes and is unrated, but there is some adult language that may make it unsuitable for children.

ANNOUNCING THIS YEAR'S UUA COMMON READ!

The UUA Common Read for 2012-2013 has been announced! The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander is now available in the UUA Bookstore. Alexander, an attorney, describes how U.S. crime-fighting policies and systems disproportionately affect Americans of color and makes a case that these effects are intentional. Alexander's presentation at General Assembly 2012 drew a large crowd. A UUA discussion guide for The New Jim Crow will be online in October.

A Big Thank You!

The Hospitality committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to our very successful Water Sharing Indoor Picnic. Fellowship was wonderful, food was great, and the cooperation for set up and clean up was much appreciated!



The Journey

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P.O. Box 844
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