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**[KNOW
WHAT'S
INSIDE]**



The Newsletter of the Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church
January 2012



Notes from the Board

During our last Board Meeting an example of unsafe candle use in our building was brought to our attention. In the interest of safety your elected Board passed a motion that disallows all candles & open flames in the building except at the altar during a worship service or other similar celebration.

We realize this impacts many activities that happen within our Church but felt that it need be applied uniformly to all. This includes RE classes, Committee Meetings, Affinity Groups & Rentals. The use of battery operated or electric candles in lieu of flame

candles are encouraged.

The Board realizes that there may need to be adjustments to this policy and will be reviewing the policy as needed.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or any other Board Member. I can be reached via e-mail (gina@configmd.com) or at my home & cell phone at 262-9007 & 254-7063.

Namaste,

Gina



FAITH IN ACTION: BBUUC and SOCIAL JUSTICE

Pretty impressive, huh? The enormous mountain of gifts for our “adopted” Haitian children... Each year BBUUC-Cer’s come through and this year was no exception. As pictured, Lisa Lynch with the help of daughter, Sydney, masterminded this year’s donations. Maybe it was because of Lisa’s singular organizational skills or maybe it was also because so many BBUUC members stepped up to contribute, but whatever it was, this year’s drive was definitely one to write home about. Congratulations to all members of our social action committee. And, remember that means all of us!

At the same time the Angel Tree donations were forthcoming, the Young Adults were busy with collecting winter clothing and “Pennies From Heaven” collections continued. At a recent Clay County school board meeting, three of our members, the Reverends Liz Teal and Pat Ray along with activist, Sandy Goldman, spoke out against the holding of public school prayer meetings. BBUUC was also represented by a contingent in downtown Jacksonville at the “Occupy Jacksonville” rally in Hemming Plaza. And, if that wasn’t enough, another group decided to heed the call and show up at a local Clear Channel station to examine the station’s records.

So, what’s in our near future?

Two new projects are being actively planned. Chris Jarman has volunteered to head up a food drive in the spring when all the holiday food baskets are long forgotten. Sandy Brito is in the beginning stages of putting together a job interview clothing drive. Meanwhile, projects like the “Dignity You Wear” underwear drive will soon be on the horizon.

1. A “Rapid Response” team is in the making. Members and friends of BBUUC who are willing to respond to calls for action may submit their names to be placed on an alert list. When a social justice need arises, calls will go out to the directory members asking for their assistance. Usually, this will be a one time commitment. For example, in mid January, would you be willing to pitch in to show support for racial equality at the Martin Luther King celebrations? See Sandy Goldman for questions or to join this team.
2. In addition to our standing ministry, the Welcoming Congregation, BBUUC is about to launch a second ministry, Neighborhood Outreach. We hope to become good neighbors to our immediate community and reach out to all residents, especially those in need. We’ll be starting with the development of a demographic report to get a good idea of who is in our neighborhood. Help is being sought here. Does anyone have any skills in this area? When we’ve got a better idea of who lives in our neighborhood and what the needs may be, we’ll be developing a plan of action. It’s envisioned that this will be a series of projects with opportunities for all members to participate. **Let Pam Edwards-Roine know if you’re interested in joining.**



From Your Director of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Happy New Year, everyone! With 2012 comes a month full of events for BBUUC adults. Just listen to what's in store for you!

Articulating Your Faith – Designed for all of us who would like to be able to explain our Unitarian Universalist faith to non-UUs in a way that's brief, easy to understand, and complete (and that's probably most of us!), this class will meet on Thursday evenings for five weeks beginning Jan. 5. Jeremy Ritzmann, a member of our Young Adult Group, will facilitate the class and free childcare will be available for those who request it. **Please register for this class and/or for childcare** by signing up on the sheet at church, by contacting the Church Administrator, or by emailing me so that Jeremy will have enough materials for everyone.

Church Retreat – About fifty adults and kids from BBUUC will be attending our first all-church retreat the weekend of Jan. 7-8 at the Montgomery Retreat Center. The retreat is designed for participants to refresh, make closer ties, hear an exciting speaker, share music, stargaze away from city lights, do walking meditation on the Center's labyrinth, watch the sun rise and set over the lakes, play, worship, and make some great memories together. Bruce Knotts, the Executive Director of the UUA's UN Office in New York is leading the adult programming and Dani Slader is in charge of children's programming.

Holidays and Holy Days for Adults – The second in our quarterly Wednesday night classes designed to discuss the common elements

of the world's religions around central themes, this class will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 25. The focus for this session is Forgiveness/Resolution/New Years. This class does not require advance sign-up either for attendance or for free childcare.

Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting – Scheduled for Sundays Jan. 22 and 29, this class is for all parents and will **include free lunch and special event childcare for parents and kids who have preregistered.**

Based on the book **Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting** by Michelle Richards, former DRE in Elkhart, IN and the Central Midwest District LRE Chairperson who is now a small church LRE program consultant for the district, the two-session class will present ways for parents to make Unitarian Universalist values a natural part of children's lives as their children grow and develop. **Please remember to preregister for this class by Jan. 19 at church, with the Church Administrator, or with me.**

And that's just January, folks! It's going to be a great year!

See you in church,

Brenda

Circle Supper Update

We're on for January – February! Five people have volunteered to serve as hosts. So, please sign up to attend one of these pleasant, engaging evenings. Sign-up sheets for those who want to attend will be available on the back table as soon as we can nail down specific dates. If anyone else would care to host, the door is always open and we still do not have hosts for the family dinners. See Pam Edwards-Roine for more information.

Newcomer Classes: Tuesday, January 17, 24 and 31

The next quarterly Newcomer Classes are scheduled for three consecutive Tuesdays in January, from 7-9pm. These classes are designed for prospective members and those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. Participants are encouraged to attend all of the sessions if possible, and to R.S.V.P for the classes so that appropriate materials can be provided. Child care is available with advance notice. For more info or to sign up, please contact Linda Mowers, Membership Chair, at 536-6003 (cell) or lmowers@bellsouth.net.

Cookies and Caroling 2011

The RE-sponsored Cookies and Caroling event held on Dec 9th at Annabelle and Michael's home in Riverside was much fun! The children made delicious and beautiful cookies with DRE Brenda Patterson. We then went outside with candles to sing carols for our neighbors, the children leading the way as they were eager to ring the bells and start singing. As we finished

up the caroling tour, ringing the bell at the UU home where we had started from, we were welcomed by Robert and Candace, who did a little dance for us as we sang "Spirit of Life" and "Go now in Peace"... Thank you to miss Brenda and all who came and made this evening such a delight. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season!"



JOYS AND CONCERNS



Many of you may know Ellen Miceli's mom, Miriam Myer, who has visited our church with Ellen many times. Miriam passed away on December 27th at the Hospice Hadlow Center. When Ellen asked her mother what she thought happened when you died, she replied, "peace." Miriam is now at peace. Please keep Ellen and her family in the light of your loving thoughts. Cards may be sent to:

Ellen and Pat Miceli
11659 Lady Clare Ct
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Our love and condolences are with Eileen Morrison whose brother, Bob Atkinson, passed away on November 23 in Ocala. Bob was 59 years old and had been battling lung cancer for some time with Eileen's care and support. Bob was Eileen's only sibling, and he also leaves four adult children and five grandchildren. Cards may be sent to:

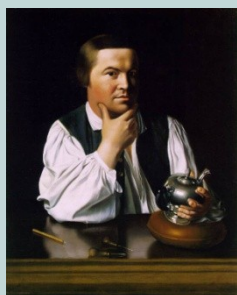
Eileen Morrison
4574 Swilcan Bridge Lane North
Jacksonville, FL 32224

NEXT MINI MIXER FOR MEMBERS JANUARY 21

FORTY-FIVE PEOPLE attended BBUUC Mini Mixers in 2011 and left smiling.

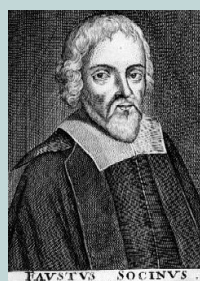
"Mini Mixers" are special parties, each held at a member's home. Planned activities help each of us get to know every person attending, at a deeper level than we otherwise might. Lynn Wadley coordinates these gatherings.

The next party will be a potluck on Saturday January 21 at Jen and Drew Glassman's home. We have room for a total of 15 new and seasoned members and their partners, and do have some openings available. To find out more and be added to the guest list, see Lynn at church, or call her (268-1771) or email (Lwadley@comcast.net.)



1 January 1735

Paul Revere was born in Boston. Boston's leading silversmith was official courier to carry the message that General Gage was to attack, signaling the start of the American Revolution. He was a leading member of the Second Church in Boston (Unitarian).



24 January 1556

The second Synod of the Reformed Brethren (Socinians) in Poland adopted Unitarian positions and rejected the Nicene and Athanasian creeds.

This Day in Unitarian Universalist History

by Dr. Frank Schulman

http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/365_this_day/?month=10&day=25

15 January 1893



Fanny Kemble, famous English actress turned American abolitionist, died. She was heavily influenced by Unitarians William Ellery Channing and Lydia Maria Child. After marrying a Philadelphia gentleman who owned plantations and slaves in Georgia, she was appalled at slavery, divorced her husband, and joined the abolition movement, publishing her *Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation*.



January Artists' Corner: Nikki Bak Exhibit

Nikki works in acrylic, watercolor, and pastels, creating paintings that capture the spirit and beauty of the natural world. After living and studying in Florence, Italy in the early 1990s, she was inspired by the spirit of the Mediterranean. The influence of the people and places of the region inspire her artwork. Images of water, boats and countryside dominate her work. The colors are based on the palette found in Mediterranean countries: earthy browns, sky blues, terracotta and lavender. In addition to working on travel inspired works, she enjoys painting North Florida inspired landscapes.

Take a few minutes and enjoy Nikki's work.



Birthdays

01/01 Simon Strickland
01/04 Eric Cravey
01/10 Deborah Jones
01/11 Bonnie McCullar
01/11 Allen (AJ) Ringgold
01/12/ Riley Frazier (?)
01/13 Paul Christenson
01/18 Paul Kluding
01/19 Javier Marina
01/25 David Dean
01/25 Joshua Dean
01/26 Marilyn Smart
01/27 Mark Norstedt
01/30 Xavier Christiansen
01/31 Suzanne Buckley
01/31 Nina Hemmelgarn

Anniversaries

01/15 Barry and Linda Mowers
01/30 Jim and Chris Jarman

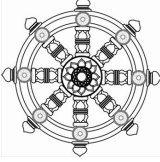
Announcements

The Potlatch Potluck Dinner on January 1st will include sandwiches and other finger goods. Please bring something to share.

We need Fellowship Hosts (Jan. 1, 8, 15, and 29) and Greeters (January 1 and 29) this month. Please volunteer!



Christmas Eve Choir at BBUUC



Chaplain's Corner

Happy New Year! What a wonderful time when we open ourselves to the myriad of new possibilities!

Some have asked how you become a Chaplain with BBUUC. All Chaplains have been Unitarian Universalists for at least two years and have professional training in Pastoral Care. If you are interested in pursuing this ministry for the congregation please do reach out to the Caring Committee Program Chair, Deborah Jones, or ask any of us for more information.

As the congregation grows, so does our need for caring and pastoral care providers. There are always open arms to welcome you at the Caring Committee, and we are excited to be welcoming a new chaplain, Karen Christiansen, this month to the Pastoral Care Team. Please try to attend the service to enter into covenant as a congregation with Karen.

The role of a chaplain is to be a listening and supportive presence to individuals of all faith traditions as well as those with no faith tradition.

A chaplain strives to assist individuals of all faith traditions to clarify and apply their own belief system/faith tradition to everyday life.

A chaplain assists individuals by facilitating discussion groups and educational programs as well as through individual spiritual counseling.

A chaplain may also act as a referral source and advocate.

The Pastoral Care Team members covenant to the congregation of the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church:

To work with our lay-leaders, Caring Committee, Director of Religious Education, Board of Directors, and the congregation at large, in a continuing process to cherish and care for all members of our church community. We will:

- Visit the ill at home, in the hospital or in hospice
- Support those going through a life crisis
- Support friends and family involved in care giving
- Comfort the bereaved

In faith and hope for our beloved community....

Karen Walsh
904.302.9969
kewtas@gmail.com

Pat Ray
904.386.3998
Pray105@comcast.net

Webcam: <http://webvideocall.oovoo.com/callme/pray105/211>

Two Letters to BBUUC:

My daughter Sydney and I took charge of the Christmas Angel tree this year. We contacted the Rev. Emile from the First Haitian Community Church of Jacksonville, and acquired the information on the children who were in need of gifts. We then cut out and decorated 56 angel shaped ornaments, and labeled these with information for each individual child including first name, age and gift desired as well as generalized directions for our parishoners for acquiring these gifts. Gift requests for electronics or guns were ignored, as per our previous year's protocol. We then bought a small holiday tree, which our family donated to BBUUC for use in future years for this project. Due to the large number of children requesting gifts this year (for example, last year only 35 children were requesting gifts) I advised the Rev. Emile that our gifts would not exceed \$20 per item. To facilitate participation in this project by our congregants, we also grouped the children by family, and encouraged members to purchase gifts for an entire family, not just one child. It was extremely helpful that the children requested simple gifts this year.

We were so pleased and thankful that our congregants responded so strongly! All 58 names were taken from the tree within 2 weeks time, and all 58 gifts were returned to BBUUC in time for the FHCC representatives to pick them up on 12/18/2011.

Sincerely,

Lisa & Sydney Lynch

Dear Members of BBUUC:

We hope you will be a part of this second series of Evensong. In this Evensong series, participants will explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs. We will meet on (day of week) from 7PM to 9PM at the church. This Evensong has different themes than Evensong 1 had. New or previous attendees are wel-

come. At least 6 people will be needed to begin and the group will be limited to the first 12 to sign up, small enough so that everyone has the chance to participate equally in the time allotted.

Again, each week we will follow an order of service with the central event being a sharing time. We will be listening attentively and without interruption to one another. Listening is at the core of Evensong.

Here is our plan:

January 12: Gathering 1 Childhood Memory and Knowing

January 19: Gathering 2 Scripture and Story

January 26: Gathering 3 Prayer and Spiritual Practice

February 2: Gathering 4 Fear

February 9: Gathering 5 Generosity

February 16: Gathering 6 Hospitality and the Stranger

February 23: Gathering 7 Being Alive

March 1: Gathering 8 Beliefs and Actions

Evensong is a good way to explore personal beliefs and possibilities and a great way to get to know a group of people.

There is no fee for Evensong. To register, please call the church office at 904 276-3739 / www.BBUUC.org or e-mail Karen at Karen@christiansens.com

For our first gathering, please bring an object, memento, photograph or drawing that reminds you of a truth you knew as a child that has served you well through life, a truth, a knowing, for which you are grateful. Try to think of a deep understanding or truth you knew as a child, even if your childhood situation was difficult. Was there a strength that as a child, you found in yourself?

We look forward to our time together. If you have any questions, please call Karen Christiansen at (773) 955-0840 or e-mail karen@christiansens.com.

January 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.

Jan 1: The Worship Committee will present ***BBUUC Annual “Potlatch” and Potluck Luncheon***

Potlatch has been a long standing Native American tradition. It is a ritual about letting go of something and getting something new in return. Instead of making a New Year's resolution, come to this service! Bring an item you are ready to let go of and share your reason with the congregation. At the end of the service, everyone takes home a “new” item. And if that wasn't enough, a potluck is being served following the service. So start 2011 off right - come, give, receive, and be in community with the ones you love!

Led by **Kris Kines** • Accompanist TBA

Bring a dish (sandwiches and finger foods) to share for the Potluck luncheon after the service! Beverages will be provided by Hospitality.

Jan. 8: Jack Ford will present ***“Wells of Living Water”***

'Tis the season: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and all the rest. Around our nation, in our churches, people are discussing themes of giving and receiving, and making resolutions to improve their lives. Every year we fill our UUSC *Guest At Your Table* donation boxes. One of the Service Committee's campaigns is the Human Right to Water. They tell us that “nearly one billion people lack access to safe water and 2.5 billion do not have adequate sanitation....” The statistics are staggering. Even more surprising is how simple and cost-effective the solutions are. Led by **Joann Carollo** • **Gary Smart**, Accompanist

Jan. 15: Marta Varee Pearson will present ***“Honoring Martin Luther King—My Great Own Determination”*** In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., we explore how to prevent our dreams from drying up “like a raisin in the sun” by making dreams become reality through the actions we take.

Led by **Sarah Ritzmann** • **Gary Smart**, Accompanist

About Marta Pearson: 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, and parents. Marta made multiple expert appearances on Geraldo, Donahue & Sally Jessy Raphael television programs

Jan 22: Mark Yount will present ***“On the Occasion of Chinese New Year: a Meditation on Time and Change.”*** Led by: **Dani Slader** • **Gary Smart**, Accompanist

Karen Christiansen will be presented today as BBUUC's newest chaplain.

Jan 29: Sheila Harty will present ***“Darwin Deletes Original Sin”***

Christianity offers a dependent series of beliefs starting from a very vulnerable foundation, i.e., the doctrine of sin. Yet, in a Darwinian age, any original sin in the Garden of Eden is deleted by the science of evolution. Without inheriting a sinful nature from the Genesis story of creation, we have no need for Christ's redemption. Both atheist and theist answers point to selfishness as the true culprit—inherited not from Adam and Eve but from our earlier ancestors on the evolutionary tree. An original selfishness is enforced by natural selection through survival of the fittest. In lieu of Richard Dawkin's “Selfish Gene” thesis, Teilhard de Chardin offers a gentle theology of evolution, calling man's nature not sinful nor selfish but merely imperfect or incomplete as the God of evolution draws us forward in the process of becoming more fully human. Led by: **Kris Kines** • Accompanist TBA

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 7pm BEACON 7pm Coffee House	5 7pm Membership Cmte 7pm Articulating Your Faith 7pm Board Meeting	6	7 RE Church Retreat
8 RE Church Re- treat 8:30am BBUUBF 12pm BBUUYA Bag Lunch 12pm Caring Cmte	9	10 7pm Council Mtg	11 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	12 7pm Articulating Your Faith 7pm Even- song	13 BEACON CON	14 BEACON CON
15 12pm Social Action Cmte	16	17 7pm Wor- ship Cmte 7pm New UU Class	18 7pm BEACON	19 7pm Articulating Your Faith 7pm Even- song	20	21 5pm Mini Mixer at Glassman's House
22 8:30am BBUUBF 9:15am The Art of UU Parenting	23 7pm Board Meeting	24 7pm BBUUYA 7pm New UU Class	25 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Holidays and Holy Days	26 7pm Articulating Your Faith 7pm Even- song	27	28
29 9:15am The Art of UU Parenting	30	31 7pm New UU Class				

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for submissions to the February Journey is January 22.

The Journey is published monthly by the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church and is distributed electronically in PDF format, or by mail to members with no computer access. Subscription: \$20 per year for non-members for a paper copy to be mailed monthly. Electronic Journey sent at no cost. Submissions are required by the deadline shown above, and may be sent to BBUUC Journey at P. O. Box 844, Orange Park, FL 32067; journey@bbuuc.org.



Clean-up and Catch-up Crews for January

January 1, 2012

Ann Marie Shrader, Pat Ray, Emily Ringgold, Karen Roberts, David Rulison, Sherry Shafer, John Sheffield, Leslie Sheffield, Carl Shrader

January 8, 2012

Dani Slader, Erik Slader, Gary Smart, Marilyn Smart, Jennifer Stokes, Anna Strickland, Lynn Wadley, Karen Walsh, Lucy Warner

January 15, 2012

Betty Forbes, Pam Edwards-Roine, Ron Ferster, Jack Ford, Pedro Roine, Liz Teal, John Porter, Megan Porter

January 22, 2012

Valerie Bouffard, Joann Carollo, Robert Lopez, Martha Morgan, Pete Morgan, Don DeStephano, Sarah Viesselmann, Steven Viesselmann

January 29, 2012

David Christenson, Lisa Chernyshev, Paul Chernyshev, Peg Christenson, Karen Christiansen, Ken Christiansen, Topher Christiansen

The Journey

Newsletter of

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 844
Orange Park, FL 32244