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The Newsletter of the
**Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church**
February 2012

District Annual Assembly

March 23 – 25, 2012

Hosted by the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville
7405 Arlington Expressway
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Our theme this year, ***Crossing Boundaries—A Ministry of Inclusion***, challenges us to ask:

- *What is our role in facing the challenges of a multi-cultural society?*
- *What is our responsibility and opportunity to engage issues of human dignity and civil rights regarding historically marginalized people in our region?*
- *How can identity-boundaries be gates to community rather than walls of fear and distrust?*
- *What theological considerations frame our approach to engaging spiritual and ethnic diversity?*

This District Assembly offers practical learning and a hands-on experience to guide our reflections.

Come ready to reach deeper on issues multi-culturalism, ethnicity, racial justice, immigration and human rights.

Go to the Florida District UUA Website www.floridadistrict.org for more information and registration forms, or see the information table at BBUUC for copies! Let our Office Administrator, Beth Christiansen (admin@bbuuc.org) know if you are planning to attend the assembly so that we have an idea who will be there from BBUUC!



Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church
is a
Welcoming Congregation



Notes from the Board

Rev. Elizabeth Teal Folding & Unfolding: Works of Paper & Cloth

Rev. Elizabeth Teal grew up in a family of visual and practical artists. Explained in her own words: "I believe we are all holy, creative beings, and the expressions of this truth are as unique as our unique selves and as universal as love. I have loved playing with form and fiber since I can remember. My father, Alex Ensminger, would give me giant sheets of coloured tissue paper from his studio to play with and explore. My Uncle Aki first taught me to fold small squares of paper into tiny hats and cats. Grammy Rita gave me my needles and first loom. It was with my mother, Lori Pierce, that I first explored colour and creating dye from onion skins, lichens, and beets; we dyed everything from newly spun yarn to our underwear! We printed and painted on canvas and cotton. And it was she who allowed me the freedom to make a mess and to love the process of creation. This show is dedicated to all my relations."

Stop by The Artists' Corner and enjoy Liz's unique works.

The Board is pleased to announce that we now have three new Affinity groups meeting at our Church! The Jacksonville Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship (BBUUBF), and Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Young Adults Affinity (BBUUYA).

Affinity Groups are formed around a common interest and can be for conversation, education, advocacy, activity, or play. All of these groups have had organizational meetings and have met all of the qualifications for an Affinity Group within our Church.

This is a great sign of our growing church and a great benefit of having our own building. If you are interested in forming an Affinity Group, please see our Office Administrator, Beth Christiansen (admin@bbuuc.org), for more information.

I encourage you to check them out; Affinity Groups are open to all. See the list below for meeting times and contact information.

BBUUBF: Every other Sunday from 8:30-9:30am
paul@newscores.com or lopez4511@bellsouth.net

BBUUYA: Every 4th Tuesday 7-9pm
youngadults.bbuuc@gmail.com

CUUPS: 2nd Wednesday & 4th Thursday 7-9pm
rafuseo@bellsouth.net

Birthdays

- 02/04 John Sheffield
- 02/06 Ellen Miceli
- 02/07 Kenny Maskell
- 02/08 Lucienne Kirk
- 02/09 Lynn Wadley
- 02/11 Peter Grogan
- 02/16 Emily Frazier
- 02/24 Phyllis Higginbotham
- 02/28 Chris Lynch



Anniversaries

- 02/04 Barry & Sara Heath
- 02/14 Bob & Diane Williamson



JOYS AND CONCERNS



Evelyn Jarrard Thomas, Brenda Patterson's mother, died Friday, Jan. 20, at the age of 92. The funeral service was in Quincy, FL, Brenda's hometown, on Monday, Jan. 23.

Our love and condolences are with Brenda Patterson, our BBUUC Director of Religious Education, Cards and calls can be sent to:

1104 Gallant Fox Circle North
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Friends,

Sitting here at the rehabilitation hospital awaiting **Pedro's** return from a session, I have found myself reflecting on the great strides he has made in less than two weeks. That morning at Shands he was almost totally immobilized on his left side and able only to utter a scant two or three discernable words. He's now carrying on long conversations, sitting for extended periods of time and walking cautiously under the guidance of a therapist. Of course, he's on all sorts of meds, but you along with his family remain the best "pill."

Thank you all for that special gift you have given us, that of your selves and your caring.

— Pam Edwards-Roiné 904-887-7509

Our love and condolences to the Kines family at the recent loss of Bill's Father, **S.O. Kines, Jr.** Funeral services were held on the 15th of January. Cards may be sent to: 2404 Egremont Drive, Orange Park 32073.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Jonnie Long**, who has been hospitalized at Baptist South, Room 561, at the end of January. We hope she is well and back home soon!

Miriam Deibler Slack Maier 12/9/1923-12/27/2011

BBUUC is invited to share in a celebration memorial of Miriam Maier's life on Saturday, February 25th, at 4:00pm, at the church.



Ellen Miceli's mother, Miriam, was a frequent visitor to our church. Miriam was fond of our congregation, knitting, gardening, reading and music, and was known for her dry and witty sense of humor.

There will be a seated reception after the service for sharing and community.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers contributions made be made to:

Community Hospice Foundation
4266 Sunbeam Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257
Or

Woodfords Congregational Church,
202 Woodfords Street
Portland, ME 04103

Congratulations to **Karen Christiansen**, who was installed as a new Chaplain with our Pastoral Care Team (along with Karen Walsh and Pat Ray). We now have three Chaplains on the team to nurture our growing congregation! Many thanks to them for their generosity in volunteering for this important ministry!

Best wishes for continued recovery to **Lori Pierce**, who had a fall and broke her humerus. We hear she is healing amazingly, which is not surprising for this amazing woman!

Social Action News



BBUUC volunteers: Linda Mowers, Jeremy Ritzmann, Dani and Eric Slater...preparing to usher and hand out programs at MLK Memorial Service



Sandy Goldman, featured at MLK Memorial Service, with guest speaker Hank Thomas, one of the original Freedom Riders in 1961! (Meeting and talking to Hank was the highlight of this two day event!)

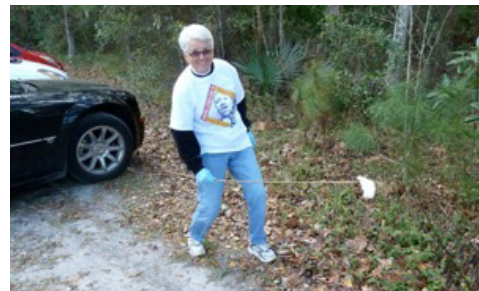
MLK Memorial Service at Thrasher Home Center for the Arts... Nina and Janie preparing to collect tickets and hand out programs. (Louise Bergeron from Clay County Democratic Women's Alliance next to Nina)



Janie Thornton, Sandy Goldman, Nina Hemmelgarn, Barbara Bujak and Sherry Shafer taking a rest after MLK Day of Service Clean Up in OP



Barbara Bujak helping with MLK Day of Service beautification project at Augusta Savage Center in Green Cove Springs



Sandy Goldman-MLK Day of Service Clean up Project in Orange Park



Janie Thornton... helping with MLK Day of Service beautification project at Augusta Savage Center in Green Cove Springs



Barbara Bujak - MLK Day of Service Clean up Project in Orange Park



From Your Director of Religious Education

The new year is passing by rapidly, but before looking at what February has to offer, I just want to thank everyone who participated in the first annual BBUUC Retreat at Camp Montgomery Jan. 7-8. We had beautiful weather; amazing surroundings; a wonderful guest speaker; good food that we didn't have to cook; games, play, peaceful walks, and canoeing; s'mores and music around the campfire in a small amphitheater; and we worshipped together in a small chapel, mindful of the rest of our church family worshipping at the same time. The children definitely loved it and are already asking when we're going back! That's thanks in large part to Dani Slader and her wonderful ways. She kept them busy having fun with everything from hide & seek to arts & crafts. I think she came away with eleven new best friends (all shorter than her). Her work with the children enabled the adults to have grown-up time talking with Bruce Knotts, the Executive Director of the UUA's UN Office. Bruce was full of wonderful stories about his life as an American diplomat, and he taught us a lot about how the UUA accomplishes its goals at the UN. (You'll hear more about this later in the year.) If you haven't seen Annabelle's pictures of the Retreat, check them out on the BBUUC website.

January seems to have whizzed by and suddenly it's February. This month is full of opportunities for you through Religious Education. Events from a chili cook-off at church to Mardi Gras delicacies and wine at the Glassman's as we raise money for our teens' social action summer trip, our annual Guest at Your Table program that supports the work of the UU Service Committee, the two-session class on "The Art of Parenting" from a UU perspective and the beginning of our seven-session Tapestry of Faith class called "Spirit in Practice" on Wednesday evenings (see info below) are all ways for you to enjoy the programming offered by your church community. Please check the church calendar at bbuuc.org for specific dates and times. **(NOTE:** Since "The Art of Parenting" was rescheduled from

January, you may still sign up to attend – and have free childcare and activities for your children – by contacting me at bthomaspatterson@yahoo.com or by contacting our church administrator.)

On a personal note, I'd like to thank you all for the many expressions of love and sympathy to me and my family in the recent death of my mom. Your kindness and care is greatly appreciated.

See you in church,

Brenda

Adult Religious Education Class *Spirit in Practice* Begins Wednesday, Feb 8th at 7pm

Kelly Belanger Harris, District Religious Education Consultant, will be leading our adult education class, "Spirit in Practice" beginning Feb. 8th on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. A seven-session class spread over February and March, "Spirit in Practice" is based on the understanding that the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" that is a part of our purposes and principles is a spiritual quest, that this search benefits from practice (in both senses of the word) that helps us pay attention to the sacred, and that there is nothing in our lives that cannot serve as a tool for this work. The class structure draws on a model developed by the Zen Mountain Monastery for the training of its students, and so focuses on eight spheres of holistic and wholehearted spiritual practices.

Adults and teens are invited to participate in "Spirit in Practice" with the understanding that attendees are encouraged, but not required to attend each session. Kelly will present each week's class as a "stand alone" workshop. There will be free childcare for participants. Please contact our DRE Brenda Patterson (904) 887-7509 or the church administrator before each class to register for childcare.

Weekly Cleaning Update

It is a full year since we moved into our new building. When we first moved in, we did not know how much it would cost to be owners instead of renters or how much additional income we could get by renting to others. For this reason, the facilities committee tried to keep expenses as low as possible. Joani Maskell got a quote from a cleaning company, but it was much higher than what we could afford. This is the reason the committee decided that it was best to clean the building ourselves.



We now have a much better understanding of our expenses, and are using the building much more than before, sometime as much as 4 nights in a single week. For these reasons and others it was decided to look again at hiring a cleaning company. I got a quote from a company called Anago, and presented it to the board. After much thoughtful deliberation, the board decided last month that we could hire the company to clean our building on a weekly basis. They starting cleaning the first week of February. This means that we no longer need to have organized cleaning crews on Sunday.

I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard to keep the building clean this past year. You did a great job. But I would also like to remind everyone that we need to keep picking up after ourselves. With all the activities going on, someone else is bound to be using the same room before it is cleaned again. This is even true of the sanctuary after coffee hour, and is especially true of the kitchen whenever it gets used.

Thank you again for your help in keeping the building in good shape!

— David Christenson, Facilities Chair

OWL Parent Orientation on Thursday, February 17

If you have a child that is in the First or Second grade, plan to attend our parent orientation meeting on Thursday night, February 16th, to find out more about the next series of OWL classes!

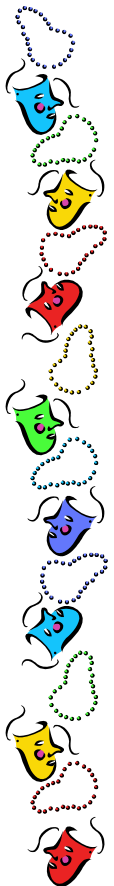
Teen Travel Fundraiser:

BBUUC Annual

Mardi Gras Party

**Saturday, February 25th
6:30—10:30 pm**

**The Glassman Home:
8251 Ashworth Court
Jacksonville, FL 32256**
(Deercreek, near the Avenues Mall)
904-363-6963



Come for Creole/Cajun Culinary Delights!

Join us for an evening of celebration and entertainment!

A raffle will be held for a delicious King Cake and other Mardi Gras-themed gifts!

Tickets will be available at church
Contact Candace Gerding or Brenda Patterson for more info)

**Suggested Donation:
\$15 in advance,
\$20 at the door**



Tickets or RSVP's are appreciated to help us plan!

Lunch Bunch Meets Wednesday, February 8th 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!

It's time to welcome a Guest at Your Table!

On Sunday, February 12th, we'll open our Guest at Your Table program during the story portion of our service. When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to learn about real people who are succeeding in their struggles for justice with UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee).



Stories of Hope will help children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC partners with human-rights leaders in the United States and around the world to advance our common goals for justice. The stories introduce youth and young-adult leaders such as Dalia Ziada, who started speaking out by winning an essay contest and now helps others in Egypt find their voice and advocate for their rights. One story highlights Patrick Lafon-

tant, who survived on his own in Haiti but then thrived when he found a purpose helping others through art therapy. His leadership grew with a new purpose after the earthquake and by working with UUSC partner the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare.

Consider making it part of a weekly practice, perhaps while gathered at the dinner table, to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we each can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Dalia and Patrick can continue their important work.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of **\$100 or more are eligible to be matched**, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your support!

Are You Ready to Become a Member of BBUUC?

A New Member Ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 11th during the Service...

If you've been attending and participating in our community and are interested in becoming a member, please contact Linda Mowers, Membership Chair, by the end of February, at 272-3862 or lkmowers@bellsouth.net.

She will discuss with you the details of joining as an official member, arrange for you to sign the membership book, and include you in the brief ceremony held as part of our service on the 12th. If you are a new member who was not recognized at the last ceremony, you will also be invited to participate.

If you're not quite ready to take that step, but want to find out more about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and the meaning of membership, then plan to participate in our quarterly "Newcomer Classes." The next class series is scheduled to be held on Sunday afternoons, the 15, 22, and 29th of April. Please find the signup sheet for these classes on the Welcome table at church.

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.

Feb. 5: Shri Devi will present “The Dharma Code”

Shri will introduce the concept of Dharma Code—a life mission statement—and we will mindfully create a Sankalpa- a heartfelt intention. Expanding on these ideas, we'll learn a simple technique for letting go of a negative habit—timely work for a new year!

Led by Lisa Lynch • Gary Smart, Accompanist

Feb. 12: Rev, Jack Ford will present “Winners and Losers”

In a bit of hopeful irony, T. S. Eliot said, "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." Camus, on the other hand, claimed that "At the end of all freedom is a court sentence...." It's a confusing game we play, this getting to know ourselves, this search for meaning. I'm going to use a little old-fashioned T.A. and Gestalt to explore our search for authenticity.

Led by Jeremy Ritzmann • Gary Smart, Accompanist

This service will include the kick-off of the month long *Guest at Your Table* collection.

Feb. 19: The Worship Committee will present “Aspects of Love”

Most of have observed or experienced the generosity of spirit that love can inspire. It might include the love of a mother for a child, a mentor for those whom they guide, or any other relationship of unselfish giving. Today, some members of our congregation will offer their take on this inspiring subject. The teens will remain in the service today.

Led by Linda Crawford • Paul Marquardt, Accompanist

Feb. 26: Baruti Katembo (Bah-roo-tee Kah-tame-boh) will present ‘A Vision of the United States, a Virtual Country of Nations’ It will incorporate some ideas and concepts found in his new book *Scattered Assets: How African-Americans and Other Resources Can Shape 21st Century Pan-African Empowerment*.

Led by Ken Christiansen • Marilyn Smart, Accompanist

About our Speaker: Baruti Katembo (Bah-roo-tee Kah-tame-boh) is a Mathematics Professor at Jones College and the author of several publications.

Greeter/Usher Volunteers

Feb. 5 Kris Kines and
Linda Mowers
Feb. 12 The Crawfords
Feb. 19 Valerie Bouffard
Feb. 26 McKinney/Pearsons

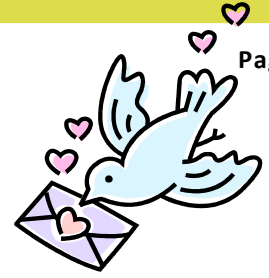
Fellowship Host Volunteers

Feb. 5 Brittany Perry and
Sarah Ritzmann
Feb. 12 The Porters
Feb. 19 Pam Edwards-Roiné
and Pedro Roiné
Feb. 26 Staci & Joe
Cologero

Welcome Ambassador Volunteers

Feb. 5 Lynn Wadley and Jen Glassman
Feb. 12 Myrna Kissinger and Deb Hansen
Feb. 19 Melinda Kluding and
Joann Carollo
Feb. 26 Annabelle Gallois-Bernos and
Peg Mullins

FEBRUARY 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm BEACON 7pm Music Circle	2 7pm Membership Cmte Mtg 7pm Articulating Your Faith	3	4
5 9:30 am Facilities Mtg 5:30 pm Super-Bowl/ Chili Cook- Off	6	7	8 11:30 am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Spirit in Practice	9	10	11
12 8:30am BBUUF 12pm The Art of UU Parenting 12pm BBUUYA Bag Lunch 12pm Caring Committee Meeting	13	14 7pm Council Mtg	15 7pm BEACON 7pm Spirit in Practice	16 7pm OWL Parent Orientation Meeting	17	18
19 12pm The Art of UU Parenting	20	21 Journey Deadline 7pm Hospitality Committee 7pm Steering	22 7pm BEACON 7pm Spirit in Practice	23 7pm CUUPS	24	25 3pm Memo- rial Service for Miriam Maier 6:30pm Mardi Gras
26 8:30am BBUUF 12pm Bylaws Discussion Group 12pm Social Action Committee meeting	27	28 7pm BBUUYA 7pm Board Meeting	29 7pm BEACON 7pm Spirit in practice			

Please Note: Scheduled events are subject to change. Please confirm events by checking the calendar at www.bbuuc.org.

Superbowl Sunday Chili Cook-off!!

The Teen Travel Fund will be hosting a Superbowl Sunday Chili Cook-off event at BBUUC! Come join us for tailgating UU style on Sunday, February 5th, 5:30 pm. If you are interested in competing for the title of "Most Fierce Cook," "Chili Vegan God or Goddess," or "Hottest Crockpot Creator," please see Joann or Robert or any teen for advance tickets. We will have the game on the big screen so why stay at home when you can be at your other home with friends and good food? Activities for kids are planned. BYOB!

Bylaws Discussion Group – February 26

Come learn about our congregation's bylaws, and a discussion of whether the language in our by-laws continues to be appropriate for our growing congregation. (For example, what should the bylaws require for continued membership in the church?) Your participation will help the Board determine what changes, if any, should be the subject of a congregational vote at our annual meeting this May.

New Nametags!

Your Membership Committee has now updated all nametags to help us identify members, staff, church leaders and newcomers. The colorful chalice emblem indicates "Member" for those of you who are active voting members. Officers, committee chairs and those with specific roles include titles. Your non-member spouses or partners, children and youth will have colorful chalices without the "member" designation. Salaried personnel and child care providers will be shown as "Staff" with their titles. All newcomers and friends of the church have regular black nametags with the UUA chalice....and now we all have the updated "church" name on our nametags! If you find that your nametag is missing from the cabinet, or you never received a tag, please contact Beth Christiansen, our Office Administrator, and she will have one made for you as soon as possible.

The Journey

Newsletter of

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

P.O. Box 844

Orange Park, FL 32067