

SUNSHINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Yours In Faith, **Notes from Your District Executive**

"The Sunshine" Is back! You have told us all year that you missed this regular communication about us and between us. We send sincere thanks to our editor Linda Mowers for all her creativity in getting this off the ground. This newsletter is reflective of the energy surging around us.

Easing into Fall happened at breakneck speed this year. Many of you wonder what goes on in the District Office; that mysterious place in the far back corner of the religious education building in the Orlando church complex. Most of the time I spend finding ways to communicate with you, your ministers, DREs, lay leaders and the UUA. Last month I answered phone or e-mail from more than 650 of you. The phone has become a permanent part of my ear since I began this work! People tell me I "list to port" more since assuming this role as I try to hold onto the phone, collate the Directory; and get the District Packet in the mail. You will get no complaints from me, for this is the work I love. You are the people I love.

This month, you installed me as your District Executive. I attended the Team Building workshop for ministers and religious educators. I coordinated the wildly successful Fall Leadership conference with **Jean Trumbauer** on Sharing the Ministry. 165 of you from 22 congregations and two districts joined together for this Saturday event. I will do two startup weekends for churches with new ministers and a Board retreat for another. I will go on retreat with the Florida UU Ministers Association and then fly to San Antonio, Texas for the LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Fall Conference. Anthony DeBella will keynote the conference on "How to Build Learning Communities." The Directory is at the printers and you should have it in your hands in ten days. I will not tell you all I do *every* month, but people often wonder what happens here day to day.

Our office manager, **Cheryl DeArchangelis**, has resigned due to complications of her pregnancy and we are in the search for her replacement. I know this makes getting in touch with me more difficult when I am traveling, but I check my messages often while I am on the road. I will get back to you promptly if you let me know it is an emergency. If you do not indicate that it is urgent, I will return your calls when I get into the office.

You are a wonderful community of Unitarian Universalists. Let me hear from you when you are perplexed, joyful, wondering, stewing, fighting or healing. We have much to share and four wonderful years in which to grow our faith here in Florida. Thanks for leading when you are called to; following when you need to and for your faith in our common heritage and future.

— MARY CHULAK HIGGINS

*Rev. Higgins was installed as the District Executive of the Florida District UUA on Friday, October 3, 1997, at a ceremony held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Orlando. The service was conducted by **Rev. Marni Harmony** (Orlando); **Ed Porteus**, President of the Florida District; special guests **Rev. Lawrence Peers**, UUA Education and Research Director with **Makanah Morriss**, UUA Director of Religious Education. The District welcomed Mary by presenting her with a painting by artist **Maurea Slesman**.*



Volume 1, Number 1
Autumn, 1997

Inside this Issue

- 1 District Executive Message
- 2 Florida District President's Message
- 2 John Buehren's Call to Interdependence
- 3 UUA's "Public Eye" Response
- 3 Commission on Appraisal Hearings
- 3 Bits and Pieces About Our Own
- 4-5 Ministerial Milestones
- 5 Chalice Lighter Call & News
- 6-7 Bricks & Mortar: New Churches, New Facilities for Established Congregations
- 8 UU In The Pines
- 8 Elderhostel
- 9 Training & Church Management
- 9 Worthy Weekend Workshop: Nov 8
- 10 Speakers Bureau
- 10 "Building Religious Tolerance" Resource Treasure
- 10 Stay Connected with the *Sunshine*
- 11 Bumper Stickers
- 11 UU Survey
- 11 Shared Ministry
- 12 1998 Florida Leadership School
- 12 District Calendar

From the Desk of Your District President

By the time you read this, I will have been President of the Florida District for about six months. It has been an active period. We are off to a very good start thanks to a hard working, effective team which includes our Board of Directors; Executive Director **Mary Higgins**; and numerous Committee Chairs and Members.

The Board had an organizational meeting in April, only minutes after the elections at the Annual Meeting; a weekend Retreat in June in Orlando to lay plans for the year; and a full business meeting in September in Deland.

The June Retreat was lead by **Terry Sweetser**, District Executive in the Ballou-Channing District and **Bill Sinkford**, Director of Congregational, District and Extension Services for the UUA. The results were A) defining the three major purposes of the District (i.e. 1. to make available quality services to congregations, 2. to promote Unitarian Universalism and social Justice issues and 3. to help congregations to network together): PLUS B) a series of over thirty-six action steps—all driven by these purposes—in our Work Plan for the year.

We accomplished a very good deal that June weekend and our September Board Meeting made it clear that we had made excellent progress on or had completed all of the action steps scheduled to that date.

Thanks to the folks in Orlando for their very substantial part in organizing and making possible the “Shared Ministry Leadership Conference.” Thanks to the Tallahassee and Gainesville congregations for starting campus ministry projects, which will serve as models for other future Florida locations. Thanks to my predecessor, **Joan Lund**, for many things but, in particular, organizing the new Extension Committee, which will bring together several committees to help focus our activities to grow Unitarian Universalism throughout the district.

Some questions to ponder:

- Why is your congregation a member of the UUA? Why not be independent? Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?
- Is there any truth to the observation that the healthiest congregations are generally the most active in denominational affairs? If so, why?
- Have you ever been to G.A.? a District Meeting? a Cluster Meeting? If not, why not? If so, what were the benefits?

I want to be an active president. Please send me your comments, suggestions and criticisms about what we are doing and let me know how I can be of help. (941) 945-1315
eporteus@cyberstreet.com

— ED PORTEUS, PRESIDENT

Interdependence

Unitarian Universalist Association President **John Buehrens** visited

with, and inspired, UU members from five congregations in Northeast Florida at an event sponsored by Buckman



John Buerens

Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society on October 4th in Jacksonville. President Buehrens took advantage of his travel itinerary and visited the area on his way to the Gainesville dedication service held the following day.

His message was one of hope and adventure. He told of UU congregations being born throughout the world as well as in places in the U.S. that one would not imagine, such as Mormon country in Utah and Cherokee country in Oklahoma. He asked that we begin to comprehend that the interdependence that we value, which is a mirror of the essence of creation itself, is something that many persons today are yearning for but do not know how to find. He admonished us to be willing to stop “sitting on the franchise” and go and tell the story—reach out and invite. In the same light he asked us to examine our giving as to how it mirrors how valuable we think the UU tradition actually is to our world today.

The response was one of excitement and exploration—one could hear groups of people throughout the room buzzing about how we can tell others who we are—dreaming about the birthing and growing of congregations throughout the world. It was an experience of new life emerging within ourselves. Allowing ourselves to be courageous enough to hope and follow vision. Fear of the unknown was replaced with the excitement of an adventure and much gratitude was expressed that we have a leader that can offer such inspiration. The experience of interdependence was experienced within the room where it was spoken about.

— DR. GRACE D. HANSON

The **SUNSHINE** is a publication of the Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
1901 E. Robinson Street, Suite 18
Orlando, Florida 32803
Phone: (407) 894-2119
Fax: (407) 894-9564
E-mail: UUAFLDIST@aol.com
Rev. Mary Chulak Higgins,
District Executive

Submissions may be sent to:
Linda Mowers, Sunshine Editor
2043 Pompano Parkway
Orange Park, FL 32073
Phone (904) 272-3862
Fax (800) 417-7657
E-mail: mowers@snapjax.com

*Liberal
Laughter . . .*

An official of a UU Church in Vermont used the words whose meaning he only thought he knew. His instruction to a young ministerial student who was to be in the pulpit that morning, “Speak loudly and clearly because the agnostics in here are terrible.”

— FROM “THE QUILL”
ETHEL FRITTS, EDITOR

A Response to "Public Eye With Bryant Gumbel"

(BOSTON, MA) On October 8, CBS television aired a segment centered on a controversy which developed in our Concord, MA congregation around the landmark sexuality curriculum, "About Your Sexuality" and the ways in which parents give permission for and are allowed to review materials used in the program.

Although individuals from the UUA and the Concord church made clear to the show's producer and reporter the facts in this case and the reality of the thoroughness of the Concord church's willingness to address parental concerns, CBS decided to pursue the story, and to present it in a provocative and titillating way which was, we believe, designed to prejudice the opinion of the viewer.

The Unitarian Universalist concern for justice, equity and compassion in human relations calls us to make choices about our sexual behavior that are respectful of the rights, boundaries and integrity of the self and others. Unitarian Universalists also believe that access to accurate, complete and open information about sexuality is a right, and that the provision of that information is a moral obligation. Thus, it is the responsibility of a UU congregation to offer comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education of the best possible quality for youth and adults.

Guided by the principles and purposes of our religious tradition, the UUA developed "About Your Sexuality" in 1969 and published it in 1971. In 1972, the curriculum was honored with an award for excellence from the National Council on Family Rela-

tions, and since that time, it has won the acclaim of thousands of families and congregations who have recognized its value.

This piece of exploitative journalism has taken information and materials designed for an important sexuality education program which has successfully been used for more than twenty-five years — to the benefit of thousands of youth — and used them completely out of context. The UUA stands by its commitment to teach comprehensive sexuality education, and views the church community as one of the best places for young people to deal with issues of sexuality with safety and candor. We are proud of our Association's record for promoting responsible sexuality education, and continue our work in that field with the development of "Our Whole Lives," a five-section lifespan education program on human sexuality which will be published in August, 1999.

CBS, in attacking the safety of the church community, has done an enormous disservice to our young people, to public discussion of such issues, and indeed to religious freedom. We trust that members of the UUA's 1000+ congregations will view CBS's biased reporting with discernment and will continue to exercise their passion for accurate and fair reporting as well as their commitment to responsible sexuality education by supporting the children, youth and adults in local congregations who seek to offer our children tools for a better, more informed future.

— UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Bits and Pieces . . .

Northeast Cluster Meeting Hosted by Community UU

The newly formed Community UU Church of Daytona Beach hosted its first Cluster meeting on September 26th. 34 representatives from the Cluster's eight churches were welcomed by **Jeff Blass**, Interim Vice President and hosts **Julia Smith-Dary** and **Terry Russell**, interim trustees. **Karen Judd** from the District's Training and Church Management Committee presented a program on "Getting the Word Out About Unitarian Universalism."

— GRETCHEN BREMER-HOSKEN

Church in the Pines Appoints Chaplain, Promotes Literacy

Though we are small in number, we seem to be a nice "church family." Our big excitement is that one of us has agreed to be our spiritual leader, following the Canadian "chaplaincy" style, and we hope to have a wonderful UU-style installation and celebration soon, making it official, committing ourselves, each to each other. More later, as we figure it out, and start up our theme of "Welcoming Diversity." Kudos to President **Irene Keim**, (almost) Chaplain **Robert Keim**, and all of us. This year we are forming teams to read stories to very young children, especially Head Start, who shall be given books to take home . . . aiding in literacy, we hope! Like Martha Stewart says, "It's a good thing!" Come visit if'n you're up our ways!

— MAUREA SLEESMAN



Let your voice be heard.

The UUA Commission on Appraisal cordially invites you to attend
Open Hearings on *Membership*
Saturday, January 24, 1998 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. • Orlando, Florida



The Commission on Appraisal is the "Thinktank" of the UUA. They are elected by the delegates from the congregations to delve into the topics that are most pertinent to the healthy growth and development of our movement. Their most recent report on congregational polity, Interdependence, was released in June, 1997.

Hearings are held around the country to hear from the grassroots concerning their thoughts, and ideas about the various topics which affect our faith. We are honored to be able to host this hearing in Florida.

Details will be announced in coming District Packets.

Ministerial Milestones

Since the last edition of the Sunshine, there have been a number of changes in ministerial leadership for the Florida District. While there isn't space to cover them all, here are the highlights of the most recent changes within the last year. A number of ministers have left their posts and are now serving new congregations. The **Revs. Paul L'Herrou** and **Silvia Howe** have left Boca Raton and are now serving as interim ministers for the UU Church of Arlington, Virginia. The newly called minister to Boca Raton is the **Rev. Harris Riordan**. The **Rev. John Burciaga** has left the Clearwater church and is serving as an interim in the River Road Unitarian Church, Bethesda, Maryland. The **Rev. Jim McKinley** who served as an interim in Tampa is off to Hendersonville, North Carolina to serve the congregation there. In his place has been called the **Rev. Barbara Child** whom many of us in Florida already know. After several years without ministerial leadership, the UU Church of Tallahassee has called the **Rev. Amy McKenzie Quinn** to serve as their extension minister. The **Rev. Glyn Pruce** in Tarpon Springs retired this past spring and he will be replaced by the **Rev. Wes Stevens** who returns to service within our Florida District.

The leadership for the Florida chapter officers of the UU Minister's Association are the **Rev. Sam Trumbore** in Port Charlotte as President, the **Rev. Dee Graham** in St. Petersburg is Vice President, and the **Rev. Wayne Robinson** in Fort Myers is Secretary/Treasurer. Please feel free to contact Sam (especially by email at trumbore@uua.org) at 941-627-4303. — REV. SAM TRUMBORE

Rev. Barbara Child

The Rev. Barbara Child is the new minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. She has just moved to Tampa from the San Fernando Val-



Rev. Barbara Child

ley of Los Angeles, where she was interim minister of the Sepulveda Unitarian-Universalist Society for the 1996-97 church year.

Rev. Child came to the Unitarian Universalist ministry after completing her work in two other professions. She taught English at Kent State University in Ohio from 1963 to 1978. Subsequently, she was managing attorney of a Legal Aid office in north-eastern Ohio. Then she taught at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, and most recently directed the Department of Legal Drafting at University of Florida College of Law from 1985 to 1993.

Rev. Child has degrees from Indiana University, the University of Akron, and Starr King School for the Ministry, the Unitarian Universalist seminary in Berkeley, California.

Before going to seminary, while a member of the Gainesville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, she served the Florida District as co-chair of the Women and Religion Committee and as a member of the District's Conflict Management Team and By-law Revision Committee.

She has also been active at the continental level, having served on the UUA Women and Religion Committee and planning committees for the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation. She currently chairs the UUA Commission on Social Witness, formerly known as the Commission on General Resolutions, which carries forth the Unitarian Universalist movement's social justice work.

Rev. Child is a specialist in conflict management work with individuals and groups. Hers is a ministry of both healing and empowerment. She says she does not leave behind either her teaching self or her justice-seeking self. She says: "As a Unitarian Universalist minister, I am living out the vocation that began taking shape in my life early on as a call to service, group work, and leadership."

The Reverend Harris Riordan

The Boca Raton congregation is excited about their new Settled Minister, Reverend Harris Riordan. Harris received her B.A. from The State University of New York at Purchase



Rev. Harris Riordan

in 1979 and earned her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 1982.

She most recently served as Associate Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma (with more than 1,200 members). Harris also brings with her a background of ministry in congregations more comparable in size to our own: Associate Minister First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, New York, and Interim Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of The Restoration, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has participated in professional development workshops and has been involved in community activities, focusing on women's issues. Outside of her professional life, Harris's interests include diabetes education and weaving.

Reverend Amy McKenzie Quinn

The big news in the UU Church of Tallahassee is that Reverend Amy McKenzie Quinn has arrived. After more than three years of planning, the congregation voted overwhelmingly May 25, 1997, to approve Reverend McKenzie Quinn's appointment to serve for the next three years as UUCT's Extension Minister. She spent a full week in Tallahassee in May meeting members of the church, attending committee meetings and interest groups, leading two services, and being the guest of honor at a potluck dinner.

Since her arrival August 1, Amy has been preaching to a packed church every week. If UUCT members are enthusiastic about her, she is equally pleased to be in Tallahassee. "I am excited to work with a congregation who have kept an active church life going for three years while on the journey to an extension



Rev. Amy McKenzie Quinn

minister," she said. She is impressed by the warm welcome and willingness of the congregation to share this ministry. She spoke of the "worthiness" of the congregation, specifically its level of caring for one another and for the larger community.

Reverend McKenzie Quinn is also pleased to be starting her tenure just as UUCT begins a campus ministry at FSU, part of a joint effort with the UU Fellowship of Gainesville. This project is supported by a grant from the UU of Florida.

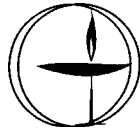
Amy grew up in the mid-West in a family that contained a college professor, a chemist, a lawyer, and now - a minister! She graduated from Wellesley College in 1988 with a double major in Women's Studies and English. Even while earning her Bachelor's degree, she felt the call to ministry. After a brief time in the business world, she entered Harvard Divinity School. She chose Harvard because the school offered a challenging program focusing both on academic preparation and action in the world. She ministered in a variety of settings, serving as a Pastoral Companion in a drop-in center for people with HIV, a Chaplain in a tertiary health care facility, and as a Ministerial Intern with the UU congregation in Bedford, MA. Amy graduated in 1994 with a Master of Divinity degree. Last year she served a one year term as Interim Minister at UU Fellowship in Lawrence/Livermore, CA.

Amy welcomes the challenge of bringing the UU message of personal and societal transformation to the larger community of Tallahassee. She sees her work in UUCT as the energizing focus of at least three years of serving the congregation. "And living in Florida, a beautiful place with pristine beaches, is a serendipitous part of the adventure," she says with a smile.

Amy has a variety of interests outside her professional life including singing, going to the aquarium, Web surfing, quiet evenings at home, walking in the woods, "X-Files", ballroom dancing, and golf. A cat lover, she shares her home with Chloe, a gray and white striped, fluffy kitty.

— CONTRIBUTED BY REV. SAM TRUMBORE AND ISABEL SHERIDAN, UUCT

Become a Chalice Lighter and Help the UU Church of Valdosta make their new building accessible!



*You possess only a small light,
but uncover it, let it shine,
use it in order to bring more
light and understanding to the
hearts and minds of men and women.*

— JOHN MURRAY



A Chalice Lighter pledges to send a \$10 Contribution when the call comes that it is time to light the chalice in our District. The call comes not more than three times a year. Help spread the light of Unitarian Universalism by:

- **Starting a new congregation.**
- **Helping a society obtain a building.**
- **Assisting a congregation in calling professional religious leadership.**

The UU Church of Valdosta must make the rest room facilities in their new Church handicap accessible to receive a Certificate of Occupancy from the building inspector. Since their building funds have been exhausted by the land purchase and building construction costs. Your \$10 donation will help them meet this requirement.

Please make your check payable to: "UU Church of Valdosta" and send it to:

FLORIDA DISTRICT UUA CHALICE LIGHTER PROGRAM
Attn: GENE PIZZO, 3006 W. CLINTON ST, TAMPA, FL 33614-3439

Please relay my gift of \$10.00 to the UU Church of Valdosta.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

My Congregation/Society/Fellowship is: _____

Chalice Lighter \$1,000 Challenge Success

The May - June Chalice Lighter \$1,000 Challenge raised a record \$2,800 for the **UU Church of Volusia County** to establish its Life-Span Religious Education Program. The UU Church of Volusia County thanks all that participated in this effort to spread our light in the Florida District.

The **UU Church of Valdosta** won the \$1,000 prize by enlisting **88%** of their membership to participate by contributing \$10 each to assist the UU Church of Volusia County! The runners up were the **UU Fellowship of Bay County** (50%) and the **UU Church of Fort Lauderdale** (27.5%).

The money for the contest came from a generous bequest from the estate of **Marylen E. Laird** to be used exclusively for the Chalice Lighter program. We felt the best way to significantly increase the number of Chalice Lighter participants was to offer a prize to help motivate our congregations to enroll their members and encourage them to participate.

Because of the success of the enrollment campaign, we will have another \$1,000 Challenge next fiscal year! Congregations, don't wait 'til next year to enroll Chalice Lighters. Do it now and encourage participation in the current request for Chalice Lighter funds. Remember, **participation** is the key to helping spread the light. Everybody wins with a successful Chalice Lighter call.

Community UU Church Holds Charter Sunday

The newly formed Community Unitarian Universalist Church located in Daytona Beach held its Charter Sunday on September 7, 1997 with 60 people signing on as Charter Members. The **Rev. Mary Chulak Higgins**, our District Executive, preached the morning sermon and gave the charge to the new congregation. The **Rev. Susanne Nazian** gave the charge to the children. Guests included **Ed Porteus**, District President; **Dr. James O'Hara**, Northeast Cluster President; and **Bob Towers** and **Douglas Knight** from the District New Congregations Committee.

Community UU Church was formed in late 1996 and began holding regular Sunday worship services on May 4, 1997. It has been incorporated in the state of Florida and is now applying for affiliation with the UUA.



A beautiful, full-time store front setting houses Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Daytona Beach

Gretchen Bremer-Hosken is serving as Interim President.

In addition to the 60 Charter Members, Community has a Religious Education Director, **Terry Duncan**, and an enrollment of 46 children. It also has an active YRUU group. The

new church is offering new member classes and has an Adult Religious Growth and Education program for adults. Community Church has applied for a New Congregation minister which it hopes to have in early 1997.

— GRETCHEN BEMER-HOSKEN

New UU Fellowship Facilities Dedicated in Gainesville, John Buehrens Delivers Sermon

On Sunday October 12, UUA President **John Buehrens** came to Gainesville to help dedicate the UU congregation's new religious facilities. It was a great day. After years of effort, the UUF sold its former building and property in July 1996. Construction at the new site (4225 NW 34 Street, Gainesville) began immediately. In the interim, the congrega-

tion rented space from a local Presbyterian church. On April 20, the first service was held, with a record attendance of 284. Since then, attendance has averaged about 30 people more per Sunday, with high hopes for a rapidly growing membership.

The new buildings include four buildings. One houses the sanctuary, social hall and choir room. One houses

the minister's and staff's offices and a library-lounge and a work space. Two house seven RE classrooms. The total cost of land and building has come to about \$1.2 million. Many, many hours of volunteer work by the members also has been contributed to the beautifying of buildings and the 10 acres of grounds.

President Buehrens' presence marked the congregation's grand opening celebration. During the service, a number of the congregation's past presidents and vice presidents gave charges to the congregation regarding its hopes for the future. The children distributed an Apple Communion with the reminder that we are a religion that cherishes the eating of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, knowing it leads to the fruit of the tree of life. UUF president **Sharon Henderson** completed the Ceremony of Dedication by cutting a ribbon (held by the leaders of the Building Committee, **Dan Dobrian** and **Rob Martin**), declaring



Gainesville's 1.2 million investment in liberal religion. Buildings are set on 10 acres.

our openness to all. President Buehrens then preached a sermon that reminded the Gainesville congregation that its new religious home was to be “a sanctuary and more.” It is surely to be a beautiful, sacred and protective place. It is also to be a place to grow the soul and be able to go forth to make life better for those outside the sanctuary. We hope UUs from all around will come visit us as soon as possible and share in our gratitude for our new building.

— REV. JACK DONOVAN

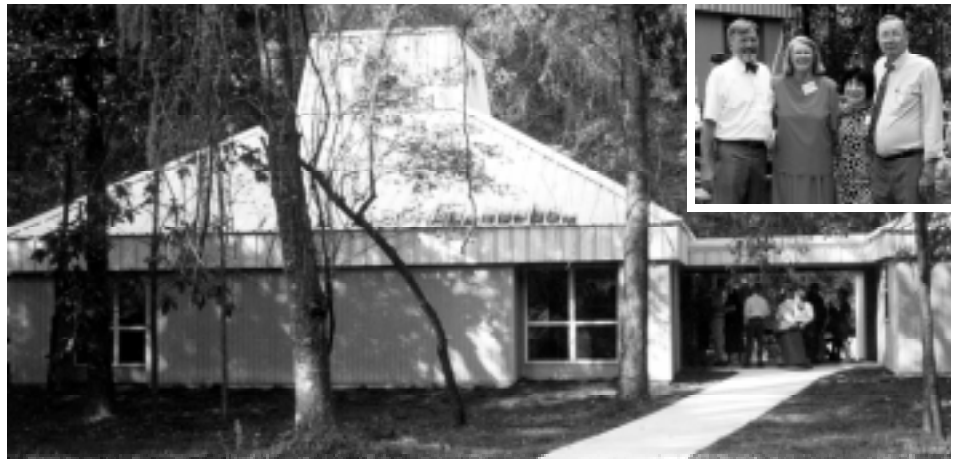
Eastside UU Congregation Moves to Miami Beach

Our fledgling Eastside congregation has a new meeting place! It's at the ArtCenter of South Florida, 924 Lincoln Road (just across from Books and Books on SoBe and 2 blocks east of Alton Road), in the second floor conference room (the elevator is just past the staircase on the entry level). There's complimentary parking in the SunTrust lot at 16th and Alton.

The repairs needed to make our Design District building come up to code were just too costly for our little Eastside congregation to undertake. So that building is going up for sale. Meanwhile, Eastside is looking for a new home. Our temporary meeting space is in the heart of the art galleries on Lincoln Road, right in the center of SoBe, one of the most diverse communities in the world! It's a great place to come for our 11 a.m. service and then visit the Farmers' Market or have a cafe con leche at the Lincoln Road Cafe, just across the street, or take a stroll down to the ocean!

If you're in the area, please join us for our Sunday service. We'd love to see you and send greetings to all our friends around the Florida District who've helped us so much in so many ways. Rev. Al is now up in New Jersey. **Rev. Linnea Pearson** is our consulting minister and helping us get started in our new location. Our mailing address is still the same. Our Opening Service was a Memorial for Mother Theresa and Princess Diana. We've gotten a lot of publicity and hope to get many new members in our new location. Come visit us when you can!

— DR. LINNEA PEARSON



UU Church of Valdosta's new home is in a beautiful wooded setting. Inset: (from left) Jim Ingram, Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt, Josette Ingram and Bud Evans celebrate the day.

Valdosta Dedication: A Day of Remembrance and Empowerment

Nearly 140 people attended the dedication service September 21, 1997, for the new facility of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta. Along with **Jack Ford**, minister, featured speakers included **Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt** and **Bud Evans**, founders of the Unitarian Fellowship of Valdosta, along with charter member **Jim Ingram**, and long-time members **Martha Horowitz** and **Betty Derrick**, who spoke on “*Remembering the Past*.” The **Rev. Mary Higgins**, Executive Director of the Florida District, passed on the flame while speaking of “*Empowering the Future*.”

Rev. Higgins also brought surprises, a \$1,000 check from the Chalice Lighters program for being the church with the most participation in the May-June Chalice Lighters Challenge fundraising drive for Community UU Church of Volusia County, as well as the announcement that UU -

Valdosta would be the recipient for the next Chalice Lighters Challenge.

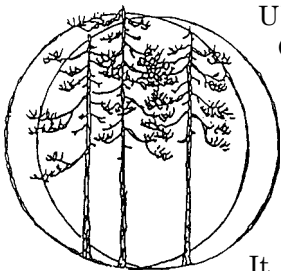
There was music in abundance with **Michele Ingram Mobley** and **Fleming Slone**, soloists, as well as the voices of the **Okay Chorale**, with pianist **Helen Faub**, from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee -filling the sanctuary with notes of celebration! A special presentation was made to Jim Ingram, for guiding us to the realization of this terrific new facility in-the-woods. Lunch was served afterwards with games and fellowship. A time capsule with photographs, a program, and other mementos was prepared and sealed to be placed in the wall of the church. All in all, a great day was enjoyed in Valdosta with guests from many different places in southern Georgia and Florida. The new facility is located at 1951 East Park Avenue (or Lakeland Hwy.), Valdosta, GA. All are welcome!

— CAROL M. STILES



Members and friends of the Valdosta congregation prepare to place a time capsule in the wall of their new church building

**Support UU In The Pines...
It's A Treasure for UU's to Discover and Share!**



UU In The Pines, Inc. is a Unitarian Universalist Conference Center near Brooksville, Florida. It is located centrally within the Florida District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is a 501c(3) tax-deductible organization with the Internal Revenue Service. The Pines is an Independent Affiliate of the UUA.

It was purchased in 1987 by a group of individual UU's who donated money and became Charter Life Members of The Pines. The Florida District of the UUA contributed the original \$5,000 to buy The Pines. The organization is a Florida corporation overseen by a volunteer Board of Trustees made up of members of The Pines. Bud Evans serves as President. The Board hires a Director, currently Suzanne Goltz Gagan, who manages the operations. Membership is open to all UU's and friends. There are now several different categories of membership. The Pines is one of seven UU-owned Camp and Conference Centers in the United States.

The Pines is located on 14½ acres of hardwood hammock forest. Facilities include a Main Lodge with a conference center, kitchen and dining room, a library, and several meeting rooms. The site has three guest houses which sleep a total of 60 people. Cedar House has additional space for meeting and cooking and can house a group of 15 to 20 independent of other facilities at The Pines. There is a swimming pool, gazebo, picnic tables, fire circle, Peace Chapel, Memorial Garden, and quarter mile nature trail through six acres of woods. The rural atmosphere is quiet and promotes renewal through rest, relaxation, meditation, study and play.

The Pines operates Special Weekends, Elderhostel, UU Canoe Hostel, UU Bicycle Hostel, Overnight Stays, and a Memorial Garden.

Rentals: The Pines rents its conference center space to UU Churches, the Florida District, Clusters, and other UU groups. Individuals, groups and organizations not affiliated with UU also rent space from The Pines for workshops, conferences, family reunions, weddings, and other occasions. For information and availability and rates call The Pines at (352) 796-4457.

How Can You Be Involved? We invite all UU's and friends to become active in supporting and using The Pines. You can take part in programs at The Pines, become a member and/or donate volunteer time, dollars or materials. Your help is wanted and needed to continue this ongoing Conference Center.

----- *For additional Information, mail to* -----
UU in the Pines, 7029 Cedar Lane, Brooksville, FL 34601

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Are you a UU? _____

Name of Church/Fellowship _____

- Check Interests:* The Pines Newsletter Elderhostel Canoe Hostel
 Overnight Stays Memorial Garden Rentals
 Volunteering Membership Bicycle Hostel



ELDERHOSTEL

**at UU In The Pines
Brooksville, Florida**

**Exploring Florida's
Ecosystems
From The Water Up:
Canoeing Three Rivers**

Study flat water river systems of west central Florida from sources to outlets. See plants, animals, reptiles and birds, and their interaction with one another and humans.

An 8-10 mile trip will be taken on the three different rivers on three different days returning each day to the Pines for supper and sleeping. History, biology, anthropology, archaeology, geology, literature and folk music will be explored as we go. Class indoors and on the river banks. MINIMAL HIKING AT SOME REST SPOTS. SLOW PACED canoeing to see and learn about the surroundings. Canoeing mostly downstream, putting in at one place, taking out at another. Enjoy the Florida wilderness seldom seen.

**November 16 - 21, 1997
January 18 - 23, 1998
February 15 - 20, 1998
March 15 - 20, 1998**

Cost: \$370

The age for elderhostel participants is 55 or older. Companions of any age are welcome.

To register call (617) 426-8056.



Need Training for Church Leadership? Florida District Offers Great Resources!



The Florida District Training and Church Management Committee has as its mission to assist with identifying training needs and resources for UU societies and clusters in the District. The Committee provides and produces the following:

- a resource publication listing individuals and materials available for training, facilitation and consultation.
- matches training and management needs with existing resources on all levels: local/district/national.
- produces and conducts an evaluation tool as a mechanism for growth and change towards excellence.

The committee's efforts focus on:

Organizational Development
Finance
Volunteer Participation
Personal Development
Leadership Skills Development
Religious Values

Around the District, we hear congregations expressing interest in how to help themselves in the four areas of church life; Religious Education, Worship, Leadership and Finance. Send your members and friends to S³ (Super Saturday Seminars) because this is where everyone in your congregation can gain a greater under-

standing of our UU movement. S³ is for everyone, not just leaders.

We also hear congregations are in need of specific areas of focus such as canvass, bylaws, publicity, music, ministry, etc. and W³ (Worthy Weekend Workshops) are available for the kind of in-depth info, knowledge, and skill building. Send your members and friends to W³ who can help your congregation become skilled in specific work of the church.

Those who take on a leadership role often find the job bigger than ever imagined! Often there is much to organize, lots to understand and a number of actions to execute. F³ (Fabulous Full-day Forums) is just the thing for those who have said yes to a chairship or a committee or a board position! Send your leaders to F³. There they share, care and find their grounding to carry on the mission back home.

The District packet comes out the 10th of every month and has the latest on the S³, W³, and F³ for the year. Look for it and come to connect with other UUs. Our next featured training is W³ on November 8th in Lakeland. "The Green Book" for all who run the canvass effort and wish to achieve a greater standard. Teams of 4 and 5 are suggested.

— KAREN JUDD

WORTHY WEEKEND WORKSHOP

"NEW" GREEN BOOK ORIENTATION: FUNDRAISING WITH A VISION

November 8, 1997
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Held at:
Lake Region UU Fellowship
3140 Troy Avenue
Lakeland Florida

The District Training and Church Management Committee offers all churches and societies in the Florida District an opportunity to benefit from the recent highly successful canvass in Tallahassee and the new manual from the Unitarian Universalist Association called *Fundraising With a Vision: A Canvass Guide for Congregations*.

Workshop Topics:

How we ran a successful canvass with 20% increases in pledges
Barry Cooke, Tallahassee Chair for Canvass, 1997-98 fiscal year

Funding the Dream
video tapes with Terry Sweetser

Fundraising With a Vision: A Canvass Guide for Congregations
What, When, How, and Who of Canvasses

Canvass Calendars/Exemplars/Action Steps

Cost: \$25.00 per participant, with fifth person from a congregation at no charge.

Purchase of Fundraising With A Vision: A Canvass Guide for Congregations, \$23 per copy. Copies will be available at the workshop or participants may bring copies.

Registration Form · WORTHY WEEKEND WORKSHOP · Nov. 8, 1997

"New" Green Book Orientation: Fundraising With a Vision

Names: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____

Society Name: _____

Cost: 25 per participant, includes breakfast and lunch.
Fifth person, no charge.

Checks: Payable to Florida District. Write **WWW: Nov. 8** on memo line.

Return form with payment to: UUA Florida District
1901 N. Robinson Street, Suite 18
Orlando, FL 32803

Florida District Speakers Bureau

The Florida District Speakers Bureau is searching for resources to enable us to provide our members with exceptional programs for Sunday services.

If you are interested in speaking before Florida UU Congregations, please provide us with the information listed in the next column.

Return your data to:

Speakers Bureau
Florida District UUA
1901 E. Robinson St., Suite 18
Orlando, FL 32803

As speakers are registered, information will be available from the District Office in Orlando, FL.

Submit the following information to

register with the Speakers Bureau:

- Name
- Title
- Professional address
- Phone (business and home)
- Fax number
- E-mail address
- Home address
- Biographical sketch
- List of topics available
- Subjects of interest
- Preferred honorarium and/or travel reimbursement
- Distance willing to travel (____ miles)
- Months of year available to speak

— DOUGLAS KNIGHT

Examples of 1997 Topics, Speakers, and Locations:

(These examples show lay or ministerial speakers who were not ministers of the societies where the talks were given.)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| Jacksonville/ Buckman Bridge | Seven Laws for Living a Perfect Life | Dumbleton |
| | A Woman and Process Theology | Kirk |
| | What Spirituality Means | Hanson |
| | Women in Civil Activism | Williams |
| St. Augustine | The Practice of Self Deception | Donohoe |
| | Life is More Than Just Staying Alive | Weisberger |
| | Women Around Jesus | Weber |
| Orlando Area | Where Did Religion Come From . . . Taking Us? | Kellam |
| | Spirituality & Aging | Keene |
| | A Look at Ralph Waldo Emerson | Graves |
| | From Mormon to Missionary to Free Thinker | Earl |
| Tampa | Islam and The West | Sonn |
| | When Life Gets Taxing | Eaglehart |
| West Melbourne | Embracing Beauty | Hartley |
| | Practical Mysticism | Wolff |
| | A First Century Easter | Lees |
| Leesburg | Dangerous Values—Terminator 2 | Jasenas |
| | Update on the Media | Gray |
| | Passion for Life | Bodanza |
| Tallahassee | Science & Religion | Faust |
| | The Terror of Being Powerless | Dempsey |
| | The Best & Worst of the New Age | Canter |
| Ocala | A Crisis in Christianity | Knight |
| | Jerusalem—Three Thousand Years | Selinger |
| | Readings from Mark Twain | Gold |
| Pineda | Woman's Herstory | Nakamura |
| | New Vision of the Earth | Osborne |
| | Religion at the Turn of the Century 2000 | Knight |
| | Gnostic Gospels | O'Hara |

Do you know of the buried treasure in your church office?

It probably arrived last week, in a brown envelope from the UUA. It may have been pitched into a pigeon hole for things "to do later." That's because the material on top in the mailing is a set of replacement pages for your "Resolutions and Resources" loose leaf book. But buried underneath those pages is your Action/Reflection Guide for 1997-8 on "Building Religious Tolerance Through Interfaith Cooperation." This guide, prepared by Jacqui James in the Faith in Action Department, contains a treasure trove of ideas and resources. You will find it with a cover letter from me and a form for sending your comments to the Commission on Social Witness. Please hunt for it. As I said in my letter, this is the year for us to commit ourselves to making our congregations and our nations more hospitable to religious people of all faiths. Thanks for lifting the buried treasure up to the surface in your congregation.

— REV. BARBARA CHILD, CHAIR
UUA COMMISSION ON SOCIAL WITNESS

Let The *Sunshine* Help You Stay Connected!

We hope you have enjoyed the premier issue of the newly re-born *Sunshine* newsletter! You can use this publication to explore the activities and accomplishments of our liberal religious communities throughout the Florida District . . . get to know your District leaders and the work that they are doing to keep Unitarian Universalism alive and growing in our area . . . learn about upcoming events and take advantage of all of the resources that are available to individuals and congregations . . . know where your District dollars go, and why it's so important to continue to support our churches on a wider level.

The *Sunshine* will begin its outreach on a limited basis this year, due to budgetary limitations. Publication will take place quarterly, with the turn of the seasons, and distribution will be limited to churches and Clusters in the Florida District UUA and their leadership. Recipients are encouraged to POST this newsletter at your church, or MAKE COPIES to share with others. Feel free to use the information contained in each issue for your own publications.

**WINTER ISSUE DEADLINE:
JANUARY 21, 1998**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS SURVEY

The new survey of Unitarian Universalism being widely distributed in the current issue of *WORLD Magazine* is also available online. The survey, which polls over 200,000 Unitarian Universalists and from which the UUA hopes to receive at least 30,000 responses, asks questions designed to provide information about individual spiritual directions, trends most important within religion, and assessments of which services the UUA's administrative offices should provide to member congregations. Surveys should be returned by January 31, 1998.

The survey is also online at <http://www.uua.org/survey/index.html>.

Why This Survey?

This survey begins a process that will reach out to all UU individuals and congregations. The process, called "Fulfilling the Promise," was set in motion by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Board of Trustees. The goal is to help us move toward agreement about why we come together as congregations and as an association and what we hope to accomplish.

Who Wrote These Questions? The survey questions came from individual UUs, like yourself, as do the suggested answers. More than 500 people helped create this survey. We hope you will find your experience reflected in the questions and the an-

swers, even if the exact language you would use is not perfectly captured.

What Happens To The Results? The results will be shared widely and will provide vital information for the Fulfilling the Promise process, involving congregations, UU district organizations, affiliates, and the entire Unitarian Universalist Association.

Meanwhile, in your congregation, the questions can also be used as the basis for small group conversations. A study guide for such a process has been sent to your congregation's president and minister (if your congregation is served by a minister).

— THE FULFILLING THE PROMISE COMMITTEE

Florida UUs Discover Shifting Paradigm in Concepts of Ministry

On October 4th, UU's from throughout the Florida District gathered in Orlando to attend a workshop facilitated by **Jean Morris Trumbauer**, author of *"Sharing the Ministry — A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers into Ministers."*

Participants filled the Orlando sanctuary to explore expanded approaches to sharing the ministry and to learn to develop effective volunteer ministry systems within their own congregations. Trumbauer utilized a small group approach to explore the specific areas of the shared ministry concept, including discovering our gifts, designing and recruiting for volunteer ministry, matching

gifts and support systems, as well as managing all of this data!

Each congregation represented at the workshop was given a complete copy of the book, *"Sharing the Ministry,"* which contains all of the resources needed to conduct Shared Ministry programs on a local level.

Looking at each member of our congregations as having the gift of ministry is a foreign concept to many UUs and people of other faiths as well. Learning this approach both within the context of our church communities and without, can provide a deeper sense of connection and creative activity for our members. Thus, spiritual growth is nurtured, people



(from left) Jean Morris Trumbauer, Rev. Barbara Child, and Rev. Marni Harmony at the workshop

find truly meaningful ways to participate in the ministry of the church, and the vitality of the church is assured.

Special thanks to our outstanding hosts at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando!

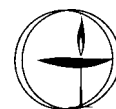
New! Florida UU Window/Bumper Stickers!

On sale now for \$1.00 each at all District events, or contact Ed Porteus, President, Florida District at (941) 945-1315.

**OPEN
MINDS**



**OPEN
HEARTS**



**OPEN
DOORS**

FLORIDA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATIONS

<http://www.cyberstreet.com/uufld/>

Don't Miss It!

UU Board Alert! Plan Ahead
for Next Fall!

1998 FLORIDA LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

October 31 - November 7, 1998

at the Canterbury Retreat
Northeast of Orlando
a beautiful setting . . . quiet,
relaxed and almost all ours!

Congregational Boards:
**Make a budget allocation for
Leadership Training Now!**

Attending leadership school
provides your congregation with
heightened skill and ability to
assist and lead the important
work of UU church life.

Those who attend can expect:

- An intensive, experiential week
- Fun with other UUs
- Develop leadership skills
- Confidence Building in abilities
- Learn to prepare and present worship services
- Study the richness of UU values and heritage
- Develop a personal religious philosophy through credo
- Nurture understanding of how to foster healthy relationships in a congregational community

Contribute to the UU Florida District strength and endurance by supporting your membership to effective and meaningful leadership training.

Call in to the District Office to register your slot(s) for next October's Florida Leadership School.

FLORIDA DISTRICT CALENDAR • 1997-1998

The information in this calendar is thought to be correct as of 10/7/97. Please contact the District Office (407) 894-2119 to confirm, add or change the information contained in this calendar.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|----------------|
| November | 1 | Southwest Cluster Mission Summit | Port Charlotte |
| | | West Central Cluster Meeting | TBD |
| | 8 | W ³ (Worthy Weekend Workshop) | Lakeland |
| | | <i>New Green Book (Canvass Manual) Orientation</i> | |
| | 15 | District Board Meeting | Tampa |
| | 27 | Fish Eating Creek | |
| December | 26 | SWIM begins | Miami |
| January | 1 | SWIM ends | Miami |
| | 16-18 | All Age Con | Atlanta |
| | 17 | District Board Meeting | Pineda |
| | 24 | S ³ (Super Saturday Seminar) | East Region |
| | 24 | Commission on Appraisal Hearings | Orlando |
| February | 21 | S ³ (Super Saturday Seminar) | West Region |
| | 28 | S ³ (Super Saturday Seminar) | North Region |
| March | 13-14 | W ³ Worthy Weekend Workshop | TBD |
| | | <i>"Fund-raising and Publicity"</i> | |
| | 14 | District Board Meeting | St. Petersburg |
| | 20-22 | All Age Con | Ft. Myers |
| | 21 | Northeast Cluster Meeting | Gainesville |
| | 28 | Social Justice Conference | TBD |
| April | 17-18 | District Annual Meeting | Gainesville |
| | | Youth Caucus | Gainesville |
| May | 8-10 | Canvass Leaders' Team Training | TBD |
| | | Jerry King, Canvass Consultant, UUA facilitator | |
| | 16-17 | New DRE Forum | |
| | 22-24 | FL Women & Religion Summer Retreat ... | TBD |
| | 29-31 | All Age Con | St. Petersburg |
| June | 5-6 | F ³ (Fabulous Full-day Forum) | TBD |
| | | <i>New Presidents' Forum</i> | |
| | 25-30 | UUA General Assembly | Rochester, NY |



NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLORIDA DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
1901 E. Robinson Street, Suite 18 • Orlando, FL 32803

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Orlando, Florida
Permit No. 02188