



The Voice

NOVEMBER CALENDAR SUNDAY SERVICES

◆ Nov. 6 — *The Rev. Lynne Garner, "Momma, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys"* —10:30 am, 1710 Gloucester St.

—First Sunday Forum, — Mark Friedman of Temple Beth Tefilloh on "Understanding Judaism." —9:30 am

◆ Nov. 13— *Ellen Murphy of Star Foundation* — 10:30 am

◆ Nov. 20—*The Rev. Lynne Garner, "A Thanksgiving Reminiscence."* —10:30 am

Coming Events

◆ *Each Tuesday — Deliver food on Wolfe Street, — meet at 1 pm at O and Amherst Sts.*

◆ Nov. 5 — *Board of Trustees meeting, 5 pm*

◆ Nov. 6— *Friends of Selden Park, 6 :45 pm at Selden Park*

◆ Nov. 12 — *Unity in Diversity luncheon, 12:30 pm, place TBA*

◆ Nov. 20 — *Transgender Workshop, 12:30 pm*

◆ Nov. 20 —*New Member Orientation, 9:30 am.*

Here's Your Perfect Answer When Asked About UUs

Diane Knight tells the following story:

Poet Judith Ortiz Cofer's mother was extremely upset about her Puerto Rican Catholic daughter marrying a man who was Southern Baptist

Shaking with outrage, she asked, "But what will you raise your children as???"

Judith replied, "Unitarians."

Her mother sputtered, "What do Unitarians practice?"

Judith answers, "Good behavior."

Pledge Drive Begins; 2012 Budget Set

You all know that Meg Musselman never hides her emotions up her sleeve, but she was a little modest the other day when she sent out an email declaring our kickoff event for the 2012 pledge drive "a great success and we thank everyone who came!" It really was a roaring success.



Me pledge? Why?

Mike Tennent (above) and Amy Pankiewicz (left) quiz the Rev. Lynne Garner and Catherine Squire about how UUCG spends its money. Mike, portraying a hippie, is distracting by imaginary bugs.

right answers, and most of those attending the affair signed pledge cards before leaving. For those not in attendance, pledge cards and brochures are available at the church. "You can turn in your pledge card to any board member," said Meg, who is co-chairing the drive with Toni Tennent

A tentative budget of \$80,700 has been put forth by the board of trustees. This includes \$41,405 for the Ministerial Package (salary, fringes and expenses); \$6,850 for Building and Grounds (cleaning, maintenance and landscaping); \$15,345 for Office Administration (telephone, utilities, insurance and administrator's salary.); \$6,800 for Nurturing the Congregation (Religious Education teachers, musician, guest speakers), and \$10,300 for Community Outreach (Social Justice programs, advertising, dues to UUA and Southern District.)

Pledge money accounts for \$54,000., the rest coming from Sunday offerings, rent, other contributions and fund-raising events. This year, pledges brought in almost \$54,000.



First Forum to Focus On Understanding Judaism

Dr. Mark Friedman, local psychiatrist and member of Temple Beth Tefilloh in Brunswick, will talk about "Understanding Judaism" at our 1st Sunday Forum (Is Rapoport Forum) at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 6 in the Is Rapoport Room.

The forums have generated some lively discussions this year, and this should one should be very enlightening.

UUCG Turns Out for CROP Walk

Sixteen members of our congregation turned out Oct. 2 for the annual CROP walk to fight hunger.

We were one of 10 churches participating in the event sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick.

The march produced 434 pounds of food collected for Second Harvest Food Bank. A total of \$3511 was raised; of which \$900 will go to Manna House. Church World Services also gets funds.

Our own DeLeon Peacock topped all marchers in the amount of money pledged and collected for his effort. **(Picture on page 4)**

UUCG Board to Focus on Developing a Vision and Creating a Strategy to Move Ahead

Friends and members of other UU churches keep asking me, "How's it going with your new minister?". What a relief to say, and mean, "GREAT!". Lynne has attracted people in to hear her sermons, she is integrating herself into the community by attending local events and female ministerial meetings, and she's even written a letter to the editor at The Brunswick News! Behind the scenes she's administering pastoral care to our members and providing input at the board and other team meetings. Having a minister is proving to be the glue that steadies us so we can move from short term thinking, to mapping out our long term goals.

As we have seen with our country and the environment at large, short term thinking is not the best avenue for long term health. Though we persevered during our transition time between ministers, there was more of a keeping our head-above-water mentality than a view-of-the-horizon outlook. Now that we have the



steadiness of a called minister, the board wants to focus on developing a vision and creating a strategy to move towards those goals. Some of the ideas we'll be exploring stemmed from the regional cluster meeting that several of us attended in October, and others have been things we have known needed to be worked on for some time.

President's Report

The ideas range from how to improve our connection with other congregations and interfaith groups, to increasing our own numbers. We also need to look at our policy for path to membership, a ministerial relations team, leadership development, adult education, and stewardship. Though we won't reach all of our goals this year or the next, we will develop a plan of attack to keep UUCG moving in the right direction. Many thanks to our new minister for simultaneously providing the roots of stability, and the winds of change. Onward and upward, **Catherine**

Social Justice Report

Founder of Star Foundation To Speak

Social Justice Team items of note:

► On the second Sunday, Nov. 13, we will hear from Ellen Murphy, founder and Executive Director of our neighboring STAR Foundation. She has such passion for what she does that I feel sure she will give a very inspiring message. The STAR Foundation is a non-profit organization that educates and encourages adults in Coastal Georgia to become self-sufficient through an all-encompassing, self-empowering program of computer instruction, job and life skills training. In December it will be Scott Runkle, Executive Director of Coastal Coalition for Children.

► The location and details of the next "Unity in Diversity" luncheon on Nov. 12 have not been finalized. I will send out a notice when I know something.

► No firm date or location have been set for the 2012 event, "One World, Many Faces" that the Robert S. Abbott Institute is developing. We are talking with some key people at the College about possibly partnering with us. Please, everyone, keep an eye out for possible vendors (craftspeople, food vendors -- at this point, just getting their names and contact info will do).

► Our next ethnic lunch, on Nov. 13, will be at Bamboo Garden, 3421-9 Cypress Mill Road, near Grandy's. Mary Freeman and I checked it out, and we really enjoyed it. Bamboo Garden does not accept credit cards, but will take cash or local checks.

► At our last meeting the Social Justice Team discussed the lingering effects of slavery on succeeding generations of African-Americans. Two books on the subject were highly recommended, and I believe that UUs might benefit from reading one or both books: "Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome" by Dr. Joy

Selden Park Town Hall Meeting Set for Nov. 2

The next meeting of the Genoa Martin Friends of Historic Selden Park Assn. will begin with a Town Hall Meeting on SPLOST 6, brought to us by County Manager Allen Ours, Police Chief Matt Doering, County Commissioner Clyde Taylor, and possibly, Acting City Manager Bill Weeks.



This will be an informational meeting to help us understand what SPLOST 6 will do, if passed. We do know that Historic Selden Park is on the priority list to get a new multi-purpose building, but there is much more to find out. Everyone will have a chance to ask questions.

A short business meeting will follow the presentation and question period. **THE PLACE AND TIME OF THIS MEETING HAS CHANGED.** Come to the Activities Room of the gym at Historic Selden Park at 6:45. A scheduling conflict necessitated the later meeting time. We hope at the meeting to finalize the time and location of future meetings.

Please, everyone, bring your neighbors, friends, and family to this meeting so that we can show the presenters what strong backing that Historic Selden Park has in the community! We can show our support by having the largest and most diverse turnout possible.

Degruy and "Slavery by Another Name" by Douglas A. Blackmon.

—Diane Knight

November Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to those who joined UUCG in November:
Tia & Bill Van Loan, 2000
Mary Freeman, 2003
Kim & Matthew Merck, 2005
Bruce Beard, 2009
Mary Gibson, 2009

Looking Ahead to December at UUCG

Be sure and put Dec. 21 on your calendar. John Conyers, son of Jack, will tell us about Christmas in Germany! He will be here visiting Jack and Billie with son Leon from Berlin. The RE class will perform as well as several of our own pianists. Leon Conyers will also perform.

On Dec. 28th we will celebrate our 2nd annual Kwanzaa.

Association Sunday

A great big **THANK YOU** to all for your help in making this our congregation's most successful Association Sunday ever!! Our collection for UUA was over \$600.!!

RE Corner

Joan Shinnick Is New RE Assistant

You're going to "fall" in love with UU's newest RE teacher, Joan Shinnick. Many of you have met her already, whether on the Robert Abbott Race Unity Institute and/or the Unity-in-Diversity second Saturday luncheons fostering racial harmony, as a volunteer for the Friends-of-the-Library book sales or as an elementary school Art teacher.

She will be blending years of studying comparative religions, experience working with young children and a love for creative artistic expression to provide our Jr. Youth with a stimulating learning environment. It is with pleasure that we welcome Joan to our RE team.

— Nancy Stewart

Transgender Day Celebration Nov. 20

UUCG's Welcoming Congregation Team has scheduled a Transgender Day Celebration for Sun., Nov.20. A panel will offer individual perspectives on the transgender experience from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. following a light, finger-food lunch beginning at noon,

As physician to transgender patients, UUCG member Dr. Jean Cardin will share the compassion she has developed for those choosing to change their gender., As daughter to a father who, later in life, chose to change his gender, Amy Panikewicz will share how knowledge of the change cleared up confusions for her and deepened her understanding. As a nursing student, she now wants to focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender medicine.

Efforts are being made to gather additional panelists. If you have a suggestion for a panelist, please let Welcoming Congregation Team members know or email maryglenn-freema@gmail.com

— Mary Freeman

Welcoming Congregation Team Participates in Valdosta Workshop

Five members of our Welcoming Congregation team journeyed to Valdosta Sept. 30 to take part in a workshop on Congregation-Based Community Organizing.

The event, held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta, was part of the Accepting Difference Project led by the Gamaliel Foundation, a consultancy group. The project was recommended by UUA for Congregation-Based Community Organizing.

Attending were the Rev. Lynne Garner, Diane Knight, Sally Revoile, Mary Freeman and DeLeon Peacock. Purpose of the trip was to find a program in a compatible congregation that focuses on outreach to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people individuals and their allies.

UUC-Valdosta's Accepting Difference Project began as a response to a serious vandalism incident in 2003. The congregation followed the incident by reaching out in love to organize local groups and individuals who actively supported them. Our WC Team members found the Accepting Difference Project worthwhile as a concept and the workshop's technique of "one-on-one" interviewing useful, beginning within our congregation. The Team will continue its research.

— Mary Freeman

Minister's Musings

As many of you know, my email was hacked last week, so that you may have received a message, supposedly from me, asking you to buy one of those pervasive personal products that keep appearing, usually in spam. A similar violation happened to a colleague not long ago.

The world is now connected in ways that we have little control over, and things happen that are often beyond our technical expertise.

What happened to me made me feel

vulnerable and remorseful that the church community had also been subjected to this cyber abuse. What made it worse was that I was in Boston and very busy with the Commission on Appraisal meetings, and not sure what to do. Hopefully the "attack" will not happen again, but it makes you wonder. Nevertheless, I was grateful that one of our members phoned me to alert me as to what was going on, so that I was able to begin to deal with it.

I made another connection recently, one that hopefully will grow into something very positive. I received a phone call in the church office from a woman who had many questions about our church and what it was about. This was certainly not the first call that I had received with questions, and until I know the motive of the caller, I am normally a bit wary. We live in a community that sometimes does not appreciate our inclusive nature, and we need to be cautious. Nevertheless, I detected in the caller's voice the hope that this would be the place where she could find some peace, and I patiently answered all of her questions. She seemed excited and relieved.

We can't control all of the connections we have in this world, but we can make the best of those that come our way. No one likes to be hacked, but it did give me a new appreciation for the interdependent web, even if not in the way we usually think of it. The woman on the phone allowed me to try to connect in a much more positive way to someone who was in search for a spiritual home. I told her that our next service was November 6th. I hope to see both her and all of you there. Here's for positive connections!

Lynne



November Helpers

Lay Reader: Ken Trobaugh

Music: Miguel Carbone

RE: Nany Stewart, Joan Shinnick

Ushers: Patti Rankin, Sandy Jones, Mary Freeman, Patty O'Brien, Sandy Bonilla, Amy Stark.

Song Leader: DeLeon Peacock

Hospitality: Tia Van Loan

House: DeLeon Peacock, Ron Yost, Bruce Beard

Greeters: Mary Freeman, Ellie Legg, Toni Tennent, Sally Revoile, Bill Van Loan

Newsletter editor: Ron Willnow



Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia

P.O. Box 1056
Brunswick, GA 31521



Reaching Us

By phone: 265-9424
By Email: uucoastalga@gmail.com
On the Web:
www.uuacg.org.

Address: 1710 Gloucester St.
Brunswick, GA. 31521

Visit Our Website

Our website, www.uuacg.org, will keep you informed on what is going on with the UUs of Coastal Georgia and Unitarianism in general. Visit it often. You'll find a Calendar with up-to-date information on church events, old Newsletters, texts of sermons, many pictures and lots more.



Marchers for Hunger: A big turnout of UUs showed up for the annual CROP March to combat hunger. The pooches were not counted as part of our participants because none of them had turned in their pledge cards. The national event, sponsored locally by the First Presbyterian Church of Brunswick, raised funds for local food pantries and nationally for Church World Services. (Story on page 1.)