



Congregational Treasure: Wendy Griffith



Wendy Griffith (l) receives her honor from Vice President Ruth Deussen and Rev. Janet Onnie

The UUFMC Board of Trustees has presented **Wendy Griffith** its "Congregational Treasure" award in recognition of volunteer activities.

She served on the search committee that led to the hiring of the **Rev. Janet Onnie** as developmental minister.

Wendy helped start Connections, small UU groups that meet monthly to discuss informal subjects. She served on Strategic Planning, Caring, and Coffee committees and coordinated pot luck dinners.

After moving here from Philadelphia, she joined UUFMC in 2006 and served three years on the Board of Trustees, including two years as secretary.

Wendy majored in business at LaSalle College and received a master's in organizational development from American University. She worked 30 years in the human resources department of Rohm & Haas Chemical, developer of Plexiglas and agricultural chemicals. It's now part of Dow Chemical.

She and husband, Marty, live on 10 acres near Dunnellon where they care for two Tennessee walking horses, three cows, and two dogs. (*Gil Gilleland*)

Best Wishes to McCabes



Jackie and John McCabe, longtime members and enthusiastic volunteers, are downsizing in their move to the Tampa area. John was the treasurer of Fellowship, LLC, the "bank" of members that provides the low-

cost mortgage on the Fellowship Hall. Jackie volunteered for several activities.

October Schedule

Sunday Oct. 2

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Make a Difference Day.*

This yearly celebration is dedicated to those who help others. What have you done that has affected the lives of those less fortunate? It's not bragging to tell us that you cared enough to "make a difference."

10:30 a.m. Service: Jim McIntosh -- "*Life is Just A Bowl of Onions.*" It will deal with how we face the challenges of life. Do we see just what is on the surface or are we open to peeling off the layers that cover it to get at what it is really about?

Service Leader: Ruth Deussen

Chalice Lighter: Bernie Greenberg

Hospitality: Hope Deckman* and Judy Novak

(*will open)

Sunday Oct. 9

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Who Discovered*

America? We may never know the answer but we are interested in your theories (or proofs).

10:30 a.m. Service: Afsaneh Noori – "*From Islam to Oneness— One Woman's Spiritual Journey.*" This is the story of Afsaneh growing up in a Muslim country, but rejecting the Islam she understood as a child. She tells of her search for God and the spiritual path that led her to believe she is One with "All That IS" and to respect the right of each person in finding their personal path to spirituality.

Service Leader: Joyce Mills

Chalice Lighter: Pat Wilson

Hospitality: Betsy Gilleland* and Gerry Chambers

Sunday Oct. 16

9:30 a.m. Forum: *The Nature of*

Altruism: Why good people do courageous good things. **Morris Wolff** will talk about the history of altruism and its present day reality. You are invited to tell your special story of a truly

altruistic person. Some past role models include: Joan of Arc, Mother Theresa, Raoul Wallenberg, the Firefighters of 9/11 (many of whom gave their lives).

10:30 a.m. Service: Rev. Janet Onnie --

"Covenant: The Tie that Binds." In our continuing discussion of the components of community, we have explored the boundary walls, gates, and hospitality. Today we look at the unique Unitarian Universalist glue -- our covenant -- that binds us together.

Service Leader: Sylvia Kelch

Chalice Lighter: Ed Hord

Hospitality: Wendy Griffith* and Barbara Thomas

Sunday Oct. 23

9:30 a.m. Forum: **Rev. Onnie** will preside.

Topic to be announced.

10:30 a.m. Service: Rev. Janet Onnie -- "*Does Love REALLY Mean Never Having to Say You're Sorry?*" Every community has disagreements and differences that strain relationships and sometimes even threaten covenants. How do we acknowledge our hurt, atone for our part in the wrongdoing and move into healing?

Service Leader: Hal Sands or Doug Worthington

Chalice Lighter: Rusty Burrows

Hospitality: Ruth Deussen* and Doris Paillet

Sunday Oct. 30

9:30 a.m. Forum: Open Forum

10:30 a.m. Service: Dr. Robert Tucker—"*Ways of Knowing: Science versus Religion*" Science and religion look at reality in different ways. Our will explore these radically divergent epistemologies.

Service Leader: Dick Chady

Chalice Lighter: Bill Bare

Hospitality: Betsy Pinter* and Carole Clarke

The View Over The Pasture

By Rev. Janet Onnie



I've been watching an enormous spider weaving a web outside the window. I put spiders in the same

category as snakes: my head understands and accepts their right to exist and their place in the order of things and their beneficial role in keeping other, nastier, creatures at bay. But my instinctive self howls DANGER! It usually only takes me a minute to get a grip – especially when I'm safely and comfortably on the other side of a barrier.



In this case, I was able to watch this spider long enough

to become curious about her. A little research showed that she is a yellow silk (banana) spider, (file photo above) the largest non tarantula spiders in North America. There are many with bodies the size of a little finger and leg spans of over five inches. They are gentle and tremendously beneficial because of all the insect pests that they eat. They often share their webs with male yellow silk

spiders, which are tiny and not necessarily on the menu after mating.

The article went on to say that Golden Silk Spiders are consummate web builders. (My Unitarian Universalist antennae went up!) Their webs have a roundish or "orb" shaped center like a fishnet, and because the silk is bright yellow they are very visible. Here in Florida, a single banana spider can place a web across a 12-foot wide trail overnight. The bright yellow web, is usually about six-to-nine feet above the ground (just in the face of horse and rider) and normally has an area from eight to 36 square feet.

Spider-watching eventually turns Unitarian Universalist thoughts to our seventh principle – “respect for the interdependent web of which we are all a part.” I observed that this structure outside my window is one heck of a big, yellow, intricate web! And it struck me that we Unitarian Universalists have a lot in common with this spider. At our best we are a gentle, colorful, web-building people, trying to cast a wide net and not being too fussy about what comes our way. This happy thought fell apart when I noticed the number of lovebugs stuck in the web, slated to be a tasty meal later in the week. Who, I wonder, are our metaphorical lovebugs?

Janet

President's Column



According to Plato the universe was divided into two worlds, “dualism”, the physical world of all we could see and touch and an unseen, immaterial world composed of “forms”. These forms actually constituted the perfect essence of their “inferior” counterparts in the physical world. The chair that you may be sitting on now is an inferior version of the perfect chair that exists in the immaterial world. Your chair exists because it possesses the “essence” of “chairness.” Other things such as frogs and mountains are what they are because they possess the appropriate essence as well.

This view has been subsequently found to be basic in modern, monotheistic religions. Earth is seen as the abode of the physical world and “paradise” constituting the part of the duo.

One would be hard pressed to demonstrate that the “real world” is dualistic in the sense of Plato and monotheistic religion.

Darwin demonstrated that animals, of a species, varied from one another not because they were inferior to their perfect form but because of natural selection. Natural selection is a concept readily demonstrated by experimentation

and observation rather than being dependent on pure faith or speculation.

I would find it difficult in any situation to support the Plato and monotheistic concept of dualism I, non-the-less, support the “poetic” concept of an “unseen world.” This world is one composed of “knowing”, of perception, of ideas and hypothesis. This may even be the realm of “enlightenment”.

These are not the perfect “forms” Plato saw but the open invitation to use our minds and our intellect in the service of moving us a little further along the road to discovery of our universe and ourselves.

Jim McIntosh

Meeting Bill Schultz of UUSC



Mike and Mary Ann Donato met **Rev. William F. Schultz**, the president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, when he spoke at the UU fellowship in Gainesville in September.

Enjoying Sue's Table



Sue Michalson (at corner, wearing scarf) donated this long table to the fellowship, where it sees valuable service during coffee hours, pot lucks and other events.

Interfaith Program on Church v. State at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4

Rabbi Arthur H. Groe, also a constitutional lawyer, will speak on the Supreme Court and church/state issues since 1940 at Pilgrims' United Church of Christ in Fruitland Park (509 County Rd. 468, Fruitland Park, FL 34741). (*Rob Michaels at ptownrob@comcast.net or 352-459-2028.*)

Joint Concert Series Begins Oct. 5 at UCC

Andrea Coburn, Mary Ann Donato and Jim McIntosh have tickets for the first of four jointly sponsored concerts at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5 at the United Church of Christ in The Villages. **Jimi Pappas**, a popular singer, songwriter, drummer and guitarist from Orlando will perform in a "coffee house" style. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. Net proceeds benefit the two organizations.

UU and You Oct. 12 at Denisons

UU and U (YOU) will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the home of **Bill and Carolyn Denison** in Spruce Creek CC off Hwy 441. This is a night of fun and games for all. We especially encourage newcomers to join us as a way to get to know others. Please sign up on the back table or call the Denisons at 352.347-5936. (*Carolyn Denison*)

Potluck Monday Oct. 17

Thank you to the Book Club, which volunteered to host the Oct. 17 potluck. Social hour 5:00-6:00 p.m., followed by dinner. Sign up on the sheet in the back, bring a dish and have fun. (*Wendy Griffith*)

Separate Tables Oct. 25 at MiMis

Please mark your calendar for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH at 11:30 a.m. Due to raves, we're going to MiMi's at 4414 West College Road, in the front of the new mall just west of Interstate 75. Prices range from \$7 to \$14. Please join us for fellowship and conversation. Sign up sheet on the back table. (*Carolyn Denison*)

Book Club 1:00 p.m. Oct. 31

The October selection is Fannie Flag's first novel, *Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man*. Daisy Fay Harper's story is told via her diary, starting in 1952, when she is 11, and ending in 1959, when she leaves Mississippi to begin her long-awaited future. Along the way, the reader is treated to a hodgepodge of beautifully-drawn characters, including would-be socialites, restaurant operators, wayward preachers, theater people, back-alley abortionists, and more. **Sylvia Wince** facilitates. (*Andrea Coburn*)

Social Justice Meets 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 18. The agenda includes discussion of the Nov. 7 Sunday Service, which will focus on Social Justice. (*Andrea Coburn*)

UU Classes in Oct., Nov.

Rev. Janet Onnie will conduct sessions on "New and Re-New to UU" on Tuesdays, October 18 and 25, and Saturday, November 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Fellowship. This is open those new to the Fellowship and those who have been here longer and want to learn more. (*Mille Mitchell*)

Oct. 31 Collection for Violence Victims

The Social Justice Committee has chosen [Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties](#) to receive the October 30th Fifth Sunday Collection. This worthy organization provides services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. If you prefer to donate by check, please make the check out to UUFMC, and be sure to write "Fifth Sunday" in the memo section. (*Andrea Coburn*)

Interfaith Food Bank Needs Help

A story in the [Ocala Star-Banner](#) Sept. 27 details how the Interfaith Emergency Food Services food pantry needs immediate supplies of canned goods and cash. Because the number of people seeking help has almost tripled in recent months, Karla Grimsley, the group's executive director, reported, "We are about out of everything." (*Andrea Coburn*)

Cindy, Janeane Lead Forums



Cindy Kuckel (l) and **Jeanane Reagan** are the co-chairs of the Forum Committee this year.

Cindy moved to Summerfield from Connecticut in 1999 after a career that involved human resources, casualty and risk management, claim investigation and safety. As one of her many volunteer activities, she was an instructor for emergency medical services. She joined UUFMC in 2006. Her goal is to present forums that are educational and bring laughter and smiles to the congregation.

Janeane moved here in 2003 from the Cleveland area with her husband, **Bernie Greenberg**. She continues her practice as a licensed psychologist several days per week and with classes. They started attending UUFMC in 2009 and joined in 2011. Her goal is to offer interesting, informative topics that can be thought-provoking and sometimes fun.

The two are seeking speakers on interesting topics. Cindy: ckuckel@yahoo.com; Jeanane: berniegreenberg@embarqmail.com



New Foyer Table: The Membership Committee and the Interior Space Committee worked together to acquire this attractive and useful table/desk for the foyer. The desk was bought at a consignment shop, after many efforts, particularly by Jeanie Powell. In its new location, it complements the beautiful mandala created by Robert Ridgard.

Spinoza's Lens Science Club

10 a.m. Tuesdays

We have just begun a tour of our solar system with Professor Alex Phillipenko. No math, but lots of excellent diagrams and images. Join us for more segments of another great series from our favorite Great Courses. (*Robert Ridgard*)

Philosopher's Den 10 a.m. Fridays

We will be showing a 24-lesson lecture series titled "*Questions of Value*," presented by Dr. Patrick Grim from SUNY Stony Brook, via the Teaching Company. To whet your appetite, the first six half hour lectures (we show two per session) are: Questions of Value; Facts and Values; Lives to Envy/Lives to Admire; Theories of the Good; Theories of the Right; and Thoughts on Religion and Values. Look for the starting date (in early October) in Weekly Updates. (*Ruth Deussen*)

Contact Directory for Emergencies

We are compiling a Directory of Contacts for members and friends to list names and phone numbers of relatives for us to contact in case of illness or emergency. The information would not be used unless there is an emergency and you are incapacitated. If you wish to participate, send your info to Ruth Deussen at rdeussen@aol.com. (*The Caring Committee*)

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Marion County
PO Box 829
Summerfield, FL 34492**