

In This Issue

Descriptions of the programs for January

Joys and Concerns

Birthday Celebrations

President's Notes of Board Meeting

Movie Night

Pledging 2010



Mailing address: P.O. Box 698

Fortson, Ga. 31808

Meeting address: 1442 Double Churches Road

Columbus, Ga. 31904

Phone: 706-660-1442

E-Mail Address: uucolga@bellsouth.net

Newsletter E-Mail: psltmm@knology.net

Website: www.uucolumbusga.org

Sunday Program and Service Leader Schedule

3 January

9:00—Adult R. E.—Judaism: The Legal Frameworks of Judaism: Halakha

10:40—**Jack Lockwood**, “Faith Based Wellness”

Service Leader—**Mona Crawford** Opener—**Gerda Smith**

Closer—**Julie Bouchard** Greeters—**Barry White & Don Nahley**

10 January

9:00—Adult R. E.—Judaism: Common Judaism or a Plurality of Judaisms

10:40—**Ernestine Mathis**, “Seeing the Good All Around Us”

Service Leader—**Paul Lee** Opener—**Julie Bouchard**

Closer—**Janet & Norm Horofker** Greeters—**Marge Hall & Nikki Rohrs**

17 January

9:00—Adult R. E.—Judaism: Judaism and “Others”

10:40—**Ron Ussery**, “Explaining UU”

Service Leader—**Barry White** Opener—**Janet & Norm Horofker**

Closer—**Nikki & Chris Rohrs** Greeters—**Mona Crawford & Mark Berger**

24 January

9:00—Adult R. E.—TBA

10:40—**Milton Jones**, TBA

Service Leader—**Bill Edwards** Opener—**Nikki & Chris Rohrs**

Closer—**Katy Clyde** Greeter—**Tanya Davis**

31 January

9:00—Adult R. E.—TBA

10:40—**Norman Horofker**, “An Examination of Faith”

Service Leader—**Pat Hart** Opener—**Katy Clyde**

Closer—**Chris Nix** Greeter—**Ann Newland**



Happy Birthday!

1 January Brenda Stevens

4 January Nikki Rohrs

8 January Tanya Davis

13 January Mary Schley

16 January Pat Hart

The Fellowship
wishes you all Happy Birthday
and hopes that
you have a fun
and joyous

President's Notes from Board Meeting on December 21, 2009*

1. New Officers for 2010

(a) Officers for calendar year 2010 were elected at our General Membership Meeting on December 6: President - John Nix; VP, RE - Rick Spradlin; Treasurer - Nikki Rohrs; Secretary - Mona Crawford; and Trustees - Sidney Wilson, Katy Clyde, and Paul Lee. We welcome Nikki and Katy as the new members of the Board. We held a joint meeting of the new Board and old Board on December 21.

(b) We still need to fill the important position of VP, Programs, for the new year. Any volunteers? This job ought to be easier this next year because we already have volunteers to serve as chairmen for each month: February - Don Naley; March - Dick McMichael; April - Pat Hart; May - Connie Ussery; June - Chris Rohrs; July - Sidney and Ed Wilson; August - Hal & Michelle Midgette; September - Barry White; October - Ron Ussery; November - John Studstill; and December - Rick Spradlin. In addition, Norm Horofker will arrange for a minister or seminary student to speak one Sunday per month. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. Having so many members involved in programming helps insure we have a variety of excellent programs.

2. Treasurer's Report - Our Treasurer Julie Bouchard reported that in November 2009, we had a surplus in our Operation Funds (ordinary income and expenses) of \$125.51. As of December 21, 2009, we have a surplus for the calendar year of \$1,937.97, but, of course we still have to pay expenses for December 2009. Other assets include: Generous Fellowship Fund: \$1,850.64; Reserve: \$12,845.02; and Building Fund: \$9,747.17.

3. Finance Committee - Pat Hart, chair person of the Financial Committee, presented a proposed budget for calendar year for 2010 which was approved by the Board with minor changes. The proposed budget provides for expenditures of \$32,184.00. The approved budget is available for review by members; simply ask our administrator Brenda Stevens for a copy.

4. Religious Education -

(a) Rick Spradlin will order the book Sunday and Every Day, a child friendly introduction to the Unitarian Universalist faith. The book introduces the seven principles and six sources in children's language. Upon approval by the Board, Rick will order sufficient copies for the children at the cost of \$5.00 each.

(b) In regard to locating a backup babysitter for young children, Rick will canvas the teachers he knows (they already have background checks). In addition Rick will ask the parents of the children who regularly attend RE to volunteer to serve as a babysitter if Kayla Spradlin is absent.

5. Choir - Connie Ussery has volunteered to help us establish a choir. We practice at 6:00 PM. on Wednesdays prior to the Discussion Group's meeting at 7:00 PM. Connie has prepared notebooks for choir members with the written music and recordings of accompaniments so we can practice both together and separately. The Unitarian hymnal has some great songs, but I think we need to develop a nucleus of members who are familiar with the music to lead others in the singing. This is great fun if you enjoy singing. Plan to join us on Wednesday evenings!

6. Lights - The Board authorized our administrator to hire an electrician to install a timer for the light which shines at night on the new stained glass window. Also, we need the electrician to repair the fluorescent light in the main meeting area.

7. Friday night movies - Tanya Davis volunteered to assume responsibility for scheduling Friday night movies on the last Fri-

day of each month. Thanks, Tanya! The next movie, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," is scheduled for Friday, January 29, at 7:00 PM. If there is a particular movie which you want to recommend, please let Tanya know.

8. New chairs - The Board recognizes that we need to purchase some new chairs for our meeting area. The project was referred to our "Decor" committee for further review and recommendations as to the particular chairs we ought to purchase. If you have suggestions, talk to Julie Bouchard or other members of the committee. Paul Lee has offered to coordinate a yard sale this spring for the express purpose of raising funds to purchase new chairs. If practicable, please hold onto those items which might be appropriate for the yard sale!

9. Member List - The Board is in the process of screening our member list to verify that all persons on the list are in fact interested in continuing to be members. In February of each year we verify our list of members to UUA and the Mid-South District. We currently have 48 members; in February 2009, we reported that we had 42 members. In recent years we have contributed a total of \$72.00 per member per year (\$56.00 to the UUA and \$16.00 to the Mid-South District). We want to pay our "fair share" (the amount suggested by UUA), but it does not make sense to make payments on behalf of those who are not active members. Our bylaws provide that in addition to those who move from the area or resign, those persons who have not attended for one year or more may be dropped from the roles by the Board after we have first make an attempt to contact them. You may obtain a copy of the current member list from our administrator.

10. Mid-South District Board Meeting - Paul Lee and Pat Hart have volunteered to coordinate the refreshments and lunch for the Mid-South District Board Meeting at our Fellowship Hall on February 27, 2009. Please contact Paul or Pat to let them know if you are willing to help out by providing a dish or helping in some other way.

11. Maintenance - The Board authorized Paul Lee to purchase the following tools: (a) a small tool kit with miscellaneous tools to keep in our building (pliers, hammer, screw driver, etc.); (b) an electric hedge trimmer; and (c) a 50-foot extension cord. John Studstill has offered to give us a lawn mower. Currently we pay our member Shaun Tarkington Woods about \$25.00 every two weeks to maintain our yard.

12. Bonus for Administrator - In recognition of her outstanding service during this last year, the Board approved payment of a Christmas bonus in the amount of \$150.00 to our part-time administrator, Brenda Stevens.

13. Committees - One only has to review the above notes to realize that our Fellowship is dependent on many volunteers to run smoothly and effectively. There are plenty of activities to go around. The Board seeks advice and assistance from many different committees to help manage our various programs. Joining a committee is as simple as contacting the committee chairman and signing up. You can obtain a list of committees and chairmen from our web site (www.uucolumbusga.org) or from the administrator. You will discover that you get more out of your membership if you take an active role!

Members may contact our administrator, Brenda Stevens, to obtain a copy of the official minutes for this meeting.

Movie Night

Everyone is invited to Movie Night on January 29, at 7:00 pm. The movie being shown is "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. The movie stars Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. It was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. It won three Oscars in the areas of Art Direction, Make-up, and Visual Effects. A reviewer from the Internet Movie Database writes, "This visually and emotionally rich movie recalls the life of a very peculiar man born in the early 20th Century who ages backwards. His life unfolds through a diary read by the daughter of his love, Daisy. Throughout life he goes through the same things we do, growing up and eventually growing old. He's a thoughtful observer, discovering life from all different angles. . . His love is what makes him special. He spends a lifetime trying to understand how his love for Daisy works and still only gets a few incredible years really loving her. As their lives tell us, the years of frustration and hardship are worth it if only for a few moments of happiness."

Proposed Budget 2010

Corp. fee	\$30
Insurance	\$1,100
Gas, Electricity, Water	\$2,400
Telephone & Adv.	\$2,150
Hospitality & Supplies	\$1,200
Building Cleaning & Main. including yard	\$2,500
Equipment Repair	\$500
P. O. Box	\$100
Admin. Supplies	\$1,000
Payroll and Payroll Taxes	\$5,700
Youth Program & Childcare	\$1,000
Memorials	\$500
Ministers, Speakers, & Travel	\$5,000
Visitor Packets	\$150
Newsletter	\$400
Adult Education	\$200
Pamphlets & Books	\$360
UUA Dues	\$3,510
Bookkeeper	\$3,000
Conference Registration	\$550
Other	\$100
Total Expenditure	\$31,210

2010 Board Members

During a business meeting of the Fellowship held on December 6, 2009, the following members were elected to the Board of the Unitarian Universalist of Columbus.

President:	John Nix	johnnix3@hotmail.com	706-324-7086
VP Programs:			
VP Religious Ed.:	Rick Spradlin	rspradlin@ctvea.net	706-662-7870
Secretary:	Mona Crawford	cmona35@yahoo.com	706-327-0808
Treasurer:	Nikki Rohrs	feubrie@aol.com	706-987-1700
Trustees:	Katy Clyde	chefwanabe74@yahoo.com	706-221-6246
	Paul Lee	lee.paul19@yahoo.com	706-315-0568
	Sidney Wilson	sidney@knology.com	706-322-2106

Pledging for 2010

The finance committee would like to thank the Fellowship Members and Friends of the Fellowship for their generous giving this past year. With the support of the Fellowship and Friends we have met our financial obligations this past year. We are looking forward to a new year of even better programs and expansion of the children's religious education. The members of the Fellowship are encouraged to make as generous a pledge as possible for the upcoming year. Your pledge helps the finance committee plan effectively for the future.

Pledge Form

Name: _____

I pledge _____ a month to the Fellowship, for a total of _____ for the 2010 calendar year.

I pledge a one time offering of _____.

This form can be placed in the collection plate during Sunday services or given to Pat Hart, chairperson of the Finance Committee

Joys and Concerns

It is with deep sorrow to have to report that **P. D. Lal** has passed away. He died on Sunday, December 27, 2009 at his residence. He was 67. P. D. joined the Fellowship in 1994. He immigrated to the United States from India as a mathematician. He was born January 14, 1942 in Gaya, India. He is the son of the late Dr. H. P. Lal and Premlata Sharan Lal. He recently retired from Martin Army Community Hospital as an Information Technology Specialist. Survivors include his wife, Narupma Lal of Columbus GA; daughters, Amrita Lal-Patterson (Geoff) of Philadelphia, PA., and Prita Lal of New York, NY; son, Sanjay Lal (Bhawna) of Moorehead, MN; grandson, Malcolm Lal Nolan Patterson of Philadelphia, PA; brothers, Arjun Lal (Veena) of Patna, India, Dr. Madhup Lal (Rita) of Ranchi, India and S. D. Lal (Sandhaya) of Ranchi, India; and sisters, Indira Asthana (J.K.0 or Ranchi, India, Renu Shrivastava (K.K.) of Delhi, India, and Chitra Gopal (M.M.0 of Baroda, India.

The funeral was held on December 30, 2009 at McMullen Funeral Home. The Fellowship will miss his presence among us. We will miss his intellect and spiritual guidance. Please remember his family with your thoughts and prayers.

Mary Lynn Lobello is opening a yoga studio in her home. You can contact her at 706-254-2516 or at mllobello@yahoo.com for more information.

Two new members were recently welcomed into the Fellowship. **Hal** and **Michelle Midgett** have joined the Fellowship. Michelle and Hal have been attending the UU Fellowship in Columbus since last summer. They decided to join the Fellowship because they felt it was what they were looking for in a church. They have been living in Columbus since 1991 when Hal retired from the Army after 22 years in Military Intelligence with many years spent overseas: Germany, Vietnam, Singapore, and Korea. As a Foreign Area officer his specialty was China. After retiring from the Army, he became a science teacher in Muscogee County and finished his teaching career at Brookstone, where he retired from teaching in May of this year. Michelle and Hal have been married since 1968 when they were students at the University of Georgia. As an Army wife Michelle followed Hal to 17 duty stations and worked as an education specialist, technical writer, public affairs specialist, English teacher and most recently as an English as a Second Language instructor at CSU's English Language Institute where she retired in May of this Year

VP of Programs. The Fellowship is in need of a VP in charge of programs. This is a vital position of service for the Fellowship. Various members of the Fellowship have already committed themselves to coordinate programs for the months in 2010, so this position should not be a burdensome one. If anyone is willing to take on this responsibility, notify John Nix of your intentions.

Committee Membership. There are plenty of opportunities for service in the Fellowship. If you are not yet part of a committee that helps manage the various activities of the Fellowship you are encouraged to participate. Joining a committee is as simple as contacting the committee chairperson and signing up. You can obtain a list of committees and chairpersons from our website, www.uucolumbusga.org or from our administrator, Brenda Stevens. You will discover that you get more out of your membership if you take an active role.

Mindful Ecotherapy Weekend Retreat at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, at Highlands, NC., April 3-4, 2010

Join Charlton Hall, Executive Director of the Mindful Ecotherapy Organization for a weekend of reconnecting with nature, and with yourself. This a program to help students and practitioners achieve a less stressful and happier lifestyle. This weekend retreat will help you to learn how to reap the healing benefits of nature, and how to live Mindfully in your True Self. You may register for this event online and see a schedule of events at:

<http://www.mindfulecotherapy.org/workshops/The%20Mountain/Mountain%20April%202010.htm>.

Registration is open until January 31, 2010. For more information, contact Charlton Hall at: chuck@mindfulecotherapy.org.