



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

Church Service Programs in December

6 - "Honoring Our Veterans." A remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, by Rv. Dr. Robert P. Tucker, Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation of Lakeland, Fl. Many of us remember that day!

13 - "How an Unwed Pregnant Teen Became the Mother of God." Sheila T. Harty always stirs our thoughts with her provocative messages. She will chart the many contradictions and flawed ideas of the Christmas story.

20 - "Advent and the Liberal Faith." With our holiday season upon us, we reflect on our Judeo-Christian heritage. Rev. Roger Seidner, our Consulting Minister, will trace the enigma from scriptural accounts of the nativity. We may take a pass on much of the story but the impact on history and humanity can not be ignored.

Our monthly pot-luck lunch will follow this service. Plan to bring a dish and join in the Christmas spirit and the fellowship. All are welcome.

27 - "Standing on the Side of Love in Salt Lake City." Rev. Craig Scott, Berkeley, California, UU minister, will share his impressions of last June's General Assembly with delegates from around the world electing a new President and debating some important issues. Most notably the theme "Standing on the Side of Love" which indicated some important new directions for movement.

The **UU Congregation of Lake County** meets Sundays at the Woman's Club of Eustis, 227 N. Center Street, Eustis, FL.

Adult Forum, with Bob Young is at 9:45 a.m.

Church Service begins at 11 a.m.

December Adult Forum Programs

Since September, our Discussion Group has been viewing two video lecture series. The first, a 24-lecture series, is titled "The Will to Power", a study of the brilliant German psychologist and philosopher, Fredrick Nietzsche. The second, a series of 12 lectures is titled "Consciousness and Its Implications". The lectures are each a half hour in length. The second half hour is devoted to a discussion of the salient points found in the lecture or of related points raised by Discussion Group participants.

The objective of our group is not learning, which we know happens, but rather to foster thinking; yes, critical thinking. I think it was Nietzsche who said the unexamined life is not worth living and that he did not want to find himself dying and realize he had not been living. To examine one's life one must learn to think and then to learn to think critically. One need only look carefully at our American society to see that critical thinking is far too absent today among members of our society, and I sincerely believe that it is up to us, Unitarian Universalists, to lead the way.

Our schedule for December follows:

6 - Nietzsche and the Greeks,

13 - Consciousness - Mental Causation,

20 - Nietzsche on Tragedy,

27 - Open Forum - A discussion of topics raised by group members including you if you are there.

Want to upgrade to critical thinking? Join us Sundays at 9:45.

...**Bob Young**

Note: Rev. Seidner is available to respond to calls for pastoral care in crisis situations. If you or someone you know has a need, feel free to call him at 407-905-5767.

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Thirty-Seven Years of Song

This month our own Randy Cadman will celebrate his thirty seventh year of singing at the Leesburg Christian Science Church. Randy invited all who were interested to come to the Church for this remarkable event. According to Randy, he wants to be around for his fortieth anniversary. Way to go, Randy! We hope that you will have many more tuneful anniversaries.

A Letter From UUA President Peter Morales (June 28, 2009)

Friends,

As you know, I have just been elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). I have trouble expressing how profoundly I am touched by the confidence people have placed in me. I can only say, in the Spanish phrase, *mil gracias*, "a thousand thanks."

I am humbled and grateful. The challenges before us are great. We continue to live in a world where fear and hatred cause suffering and violence. Greed and acquisitiveness threaten life on our planet. We are surrounded by millions of people seeking a spiritual home that is free and open. We face historic cultural and ethnic change in America.

We must learn to express our love and values in new cultural contexts. We will build on the great achievement of President Bill Sinkford in social witness. Ours will be a presidency passionately engaged in the great moral issues of our time: economic justice, peace, and human rights. I would like to thank and praise the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, the other candidate for president, for her deep insights and inspiring contributions to our faith. Her concerns for spiritual depth, covenantal relationships and stewardship are values I share.

To Laurel's supporters, I offer my warmest welcome. There are no divisions in our movement, only complementarities. Your call for spiritual depth has always been a call that leads us to work together to make a better world. Together, we are answering the same call heard by Servetus, Ballou, Channing, Parker and Susan B. Anthony—a call to leave behind what is outmoded and to let compassion guide us as we shape a future together.

The challenges we face are great. However, together we have the passion, the spirit, the determination and love to face the tests of our times. Together, we can grow our faith and help heal the world. We can be, we must be, the religion for our time. Together we are beginning an exciting new chapter in Unitarian Universalism. We are on a journey of faith together.

...Peter Morales

Coming up at the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

All regular meetings with programs are free and open to the public. They are held on Sundays, at 2:00pm at Trout Lake Nature Center, one-half mile east of SR 19 in Eustis, on CR 44. Meetings feature a speaker followed by a brief business meeting on past and coming events. Refreshments are available beginning at 1:30pm.

Please note that The Annual Meeting is a potluck and is on Tuesday at 6:00pm.

January 17 – Update on the Apopka Restoration Project. David Walker, Project Manager. Walker

(continued)

is with the St Johns River Water Management District.

February 21 – Audubon on the World Stage. Ruth Ann Wiesenthal-Gold has been engaged in population studies for many Years and participated in a family planning field trip to Ethiopia sponsored by Audubon and the Sierra Club.

March 16 – Tuesday, 6:00pm (Annual Meeting) – Portals of Nature. Diane Brannon, wildlife photographer. Since moving to Florida she has become a full-time photographer, especially in Lake County, with emphasis on water birds. This is the OVAS Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and/Directors and the Potluck Dinner.

April 11 – Florida’s Earliest Birds and Wildlife. A Record Preserved. Russell and Bonnie Cronin. Russell Brown and Bonnie Cronin are members of the Florida Fossil Hunters, an organization consisting of amateur paleontologists. They have both done fossil presentations and school and museum displays over the last 10 to 15 years.

Movie Goers...

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, at Kathleen Cook’s home, 33235 E. Lake Joanna Dr, Eustis, 32736. The movie will be “Seoul Train”, a dramatic documentary of North Koreans’ struggles to escape their oppressive Communist country, risking torture and execution for a chance at liberty. Refugees try to flee through China to their southern counterpart or to another country, aided by the Underground Railroad -- a loose network of safe houses and secret routes leading to freedom. The film also details activists’ efforts to help. In case you lose your way to Kathleen’s, her phone number is 383-4953.

...Ruth Gray

December Birthdays:

Jim Bennett, December 1
Kit Tatum, December 4
Elaine Jasenas, December 5
Vern Cannaday, December 14
Carl Skiles, December 26
John Steingart, December 31

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, November 2009

The UUA Board of Trustees convened in October, and in the report written following the meeting I indicated I would write more about Rev. Peter Morales’ thoughts on the “critical” issues facing Unitarian Universalism. In the Trustee report which is available on the District web page I wrote about President Morales’ belief that UUs must create a new ministry for a new century. He believes our faith needs to be much more than the “tiny, fringe religion that it is today” and we have not responded effectively for the needs of the liberal spiritual community. Another opportunity we must focus our energy on is growth.

Growth of our faith is not something that is just organizationally desirable. According to Pres. Morales it is a moral and religious imperative in a time when our congregations are amidst the spiritually hungry and religiously homeless who need us. Rev. Morales believes we have failed to grow because of the misplaced attention and energy in media campaigns and costly efforts to start large churches. Growing our faith will happen in our existing congregations through quality relationships, quality welcoming, and a sense of mission. Congregations have much to learn from each other. Congregations that have experienced growth have not done so by creating a growth plan but by being passionate about the possibilities and seeking excellence in congregational life. These congregations realize that growth is not a goal, but is a measurement of health and vitality.

President Morales says there are things we must do. We must create and sustain a sense of urgency throughout our faith by unleashing the commitment and idealism in our congregations who are on both a visionary and practical path. We need to work with our fastest growing churches in close partnership. They are the folks who know how to grow our faith. We must focus growth efforts by ensuring that our UUA staff is an effective partner to our congregations. Rev. Morales stated UUA field staff must focus their efforts on working with congregations committed to sharing our faith and serve as capable consultants who assist in unleashing the congregation’s potential. Our UUA must reorganize the way we deliver services to congregations. According to Rev. Morales there is broad consensus that we should move to a more

flexible regional model. New congregations need to be started in growing and underserved areas, using new approaches that build on the expertise of our leading congregations and use the opportunities of modern technology.

Whatever your congregation is doing to celebrate the end-of-year holidays I wish your congregation

good health and good relationships. Please know I am available for conversation, and/or speaking at a Sunday service. I am usually a phone call (813-931-9727) or email (jlund@uua.org) away. Happy Holidays one and all.