



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

Church Service Programs in March

1 -- "Falling in Love with Clementine. A Unitarian Writes A Trilogy of Novels". **Ronald Vierling** of Orlando, who has spoken to us before, will tell us why and how the novel first germinated in his imagination. He will discuss the spiritual journey he experienced during the writing. (Please see Clementine, page 3.)

8 -- "Intelligent Design or a Design for Ignorance". Rev. **John M. Higgins**, Consulting Minister at The Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, Rockledge, will be our guest speaker.

15 -- **Ronald Vierling** returns to speak on "To A Meeting in Shadows: Robert Roripaugh's poem *Hunting Deer* as Transcendental Transformation". A copy of the poem will be included in our order of service.

22 -- "The Eternal Spring of Possibility". Rev. Dr. **Randolph Becker**, UU Minister of Key West, says one of the enduring messages from our Universalist heritage is that the universe is an eternal spring of possibility, an abiding source of potential which has been sustained throughout existence even in the worst of times, in the face of despicable people and beyond our wildest dreams.

Mirrored in the earthly renewal of the spring equinox, this strand of being is known by many names: faith, hope, love. How is it known and reflected in your life?

29 -- "Humanity, Sexuality, and Tradition". Our Consulting Minister, Rev. **Roger Seidner**, will endeavor to examine the reality of human relationships in the 21st century. Many traditional views endorsed by religious communions are outside the realm of current understanding.

Our monthly pot-luck lunch follows this service. All are welcome.

Adult Forum Programs in March

This month we continue with the lecture series titled "Albert Einstein; Physicist, Philosopher, Humanitarian." Because the science and physics lectures are somewhat difficult to understand we will focus, on Einstein the person, the philosopher and the humanitarian. Our lecturer is Don Howard, professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame.

1 -- Albert Einstein - birth of the Young Physicist,

8 -- Albert Einstein - From Bern to Berlin,

15 -- Marvin Jacobson on Torture,

22 -- Albert Einstein - From Berlin to Princeton,

29 -- Our usual Open Forum.

...**Bob Young**

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.

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

March Birthdays:

Eleanor Fessler, Mar. 12
Ted Fessler, Mar. 22
Patti Stiner, Mar. 27
Joyce Gray, Mar. 30

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727

Phone: 352-383-2263

Email contact: canopus1@comcast.net

Website: lakecountyuu.org

Officers

Bill Hermann, President
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Ruth Gray
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Roger Benton Seidner, Consulting minister.

Phone: 407-905-5767

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Editor, Ted Fessler Phone: 352-483-7405

President's Message...

I found this item by Connie in last month's mailing from the Florida District to be particularly apropos as the new administration in Washington wrestles with the governing structure.

...Bill Hermann

Taking a Stand By Connie Goodbread

"Force always attracts men of low morality." -- Albert Einstein

Great leaders continually examine their motives. They ask themselves, "On what principle am I taking this stand? Am I acting for the common good? Am I trying to push a personal agenda? Do I just want my way or is there a principle at stake here?" Great leaders will admit to themselves when they are not standing on principle but rather acting out of other motives and can stop themselves.

It is not always easy taking a stand. One of the things that can help us when we find ourselves in the position of needing to is a deep understanding of the principle at the foundation of our actions. If we can ask ourselves the questions above and answer them honestly, the direction we need to

take becomes clear. When called to defend our position, decision or action we can state clearly what principle we are upholding. We know we are not taking action for selfish reasons.

This does not mean that all others will fall in line, agree with us, always see the wisdom in our words or go the direction we are suggesting. It does not mean we should close ourselves off to great ideas, the wisdom of others or a different tack that would uphold the common good and the deepest principle. We should remain in relationship but be able to cut through the emotional quagmire that can arise when a stand must be taken. James Luther Adams said that there is no coercion in Unitarian Universalism. This is foundational part of our faith. Force is out of the question. We should never find ourselves forcing our way on others through manipulation, debate, temper, trickery or any other of means of coercion. If we are taking a principled stand we will not need to use any of these tactics to be heard. When we are taking a principled stand we state the action we are thinking of taking and the principle it upholds. We hear others and set boundaries. We correct the course when needed and take action lovingly.

Each of us is capable of wanting our way. Each of us is capable of noble thoughts, actions and deeds. Each of us is capable of demanding from ourselves first, and then from others, the very best that we can be. This is what it means to be in covenant. This is what it means to be practicing our full polity. Covenant and polity are the backbone of Unitarian Universalism. Both of these words are relational words. We are a covenantal, not a creedal faith. There is no coercion. Each of us comes to this faith of our own free will and we stay together in respectful loving relationship. We hold ourselves to the highest of standards. We call one another back into covenant when we slip. We recognize the individual authority for their faith, the congregational authority to govern itself and the need to be in relationship with others to build a better world.

Our covenant and polity demand that we take stands. To build a better world we must understand the bedrock we build this better world upon. Examining the motives for our actions and making sure that our actions are principle driven is a way to help us insure that we are building a better world. We are the leaders we have been waiting for! Let's be great!

Clementine...

From page 1

Ronald will bring copies of "Clementine Camille: An American Romance" and "Clementine Camille, Volume 2: An American Memoir". They are \$25 a copy or both for \$45. He will return 1/3 of the proceeds to our congregation to be used as we see fit.

Monthly Canned Goods Collection

Leesburg Food Bank provides assistance to needy people through donations provided by churches, businesses, and other organizations in our area. For several years, we have supported this worthy program.

This is a reminder to all, to remember the food bank. Some of us have taken to keeping food bank donations in the car trunk, so that they aren't forgotten on Sunday morning. And remember to avoid foods in cardboard or plastic bags that might attract little critters. Best are cans and bottles. This is surely a good charity; let's increase our support.

Downloads...

Theologian **Sheila T. Harty** spoke to us on February 8. Her title: "Intellectuals Are Still Neglected Sheep". For those interested in reading the text of that sermon, you can find it at Sheila's website, <http://www.sheila-t-harty.com/>. Click on **Topics and Titles** and follow the directions for downloading specific titles.

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Another way is to have us email your copy. If that is your wish, please let me know what email address you would like me to use.

Ted Fessler, editor

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

A newly forming UU affinity organization, "Equal Access", is the topic for March. The Equal Access mission includes promoting equality and access for UUs with disabilities and comprehensive accessibility throughout our faith community. In addition, Equal Access pledges to advocate for full inclusion in our faith community by identifying, countering, and dismantling ableism and will advocate for people with disabilities throughout our larger world community.

We live in an ableist society that devalues persons based on various physical, sensory, mental health, and intellection disabilities, and vies privilege to those who are not disabled. Equal Access will be an anti-ableist group of folks with a variety of disabilities and their allies. It is known that each disability is affected by ableism in different ways and persons with disabilities have their own unique identities, challenges and solutions, ableism potentially can unite oppressed persons in a group dedicated to resistance. This does not diminish the challenges and solutions of each specific disability identity; instead it is an affirmation of the multiple layers of identity of every individual.

Some of the actions planned include: Creating an atmosphere of openness and acceptance of persons with physical, sensory, mental health, and intellectual disabilities; educating all UUs about the social justice implications and impact of disabilities on our denomination and in our culture; affirming the spiritual needs of congregation members and friends with disabilities; developing and adopting accessibility policies and practices that endorse and ensure the full inclusion of members, friends, and guests with disabilities in a non-discriminatory manner; working with our UUA, the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee (JTWTC), and districts on disability-related social justice policy issues of non-discrimination and access; and encouraging all persons with disabilities and their allies within the denomination to join in this effort.

All of us are welcome to be part of this new transformative organization. It essential that we work together to take responsibility to create a community of encouragement, compassion, and hospitality and to be sensitive to possible conflicts...willing to work toward solutions,

accepting that some of our differences may not be resolvable. Most important, all of our decisions must be democratically.

I **encourage** you to be a part of our annual District Assembly in Sarasota later this month and LOOK FORWARD to being with many of you. It will be a great meeting, entertaining, and fun! Please introduce yourselves when we are together. Stay in touch: jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.