



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

COMMITMENT MONTH

1 - "What Are You Doing?" The question has been asked - What are we as a church doing as an influence in the larger community? You will hear from several members of our congregation before you will be asked the same question.

8 - Commitment Drive Kick-off conduction by the Kooky Krazy Kommittee, who will entertain us, inform us, and hopefully motivate us to pledge financial and service support to our congregation and the larger community.

15 - "How We Got from Puritanism to Diversity". Rev. John M. Higgins of Rockledge, FL, plans to trace our history from 1600 to today. He always gives us an interesting message.

22 - Thanksgiving and Stewardship Sunday. Our Consulting Minister, Rev. Roger Seidner, will lead in a reflection of our favored status in the world and the commensurate responsibility we have in stewardship.

A special lunch will be served following this service to celebrate reaching our commitment goals.

29 - Rev. Dr. Randolph Becker will speak on "The Abyss of Eden". One of the universal images of religion is of the primal place of perfection from which we humans have strayed. But, is striving to re-establish such a promised land more a dream or a nightmare?

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.

November Adult Forum Programs

We invite you to come and participate or just sit back and enjoy the hospitality.

1 - The "Problem" of Consciousness

8 - "God is Dead" Nietzsche and Christianity

15 - Consciousness -- The Explanatory Gap

22 - Nietzsche and the Greeks

29 - 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.

PLEDGE DRIVE

Plans are well underway for the annual pledge drive. Our Kooky Kommittee has lots of fun, funky, festive ideas for making it an informative, memorable event. The kick-off date is Nov. 8, when the Krazy Kommittee will be in charge of entertaining you, informing you, and hopefully motivating you. I can pretty much guarantee that it will be unlike any church service you have ever attended. It isn't all about cash, though that is a factor, even if it's only the kind that jingles in the basket. It's also about commitment, even if that means just showing up and occupying one of our less-than-comfortable seats! Pledge/membership cards will be distributed and explained. Instead of returning your pledge card to a person, a box will

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UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Officers

Bill Hermann, President
Barbara Coats, Vice Pres.
Pat Linfield, Treasurer
Joyce Littlefield, Secretary

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(PLEDGE DRIVE, continued...)

be available so you can simply drop your card in the slot. The only person who will see the pledge card will be our treasurer, Pat Linfield, and she has assured us that her memory isn't up to remembering who has pledged what. In other words, the pledges will remain confidential.

The following Sunday, Nov. 15th, Pat will give us a progress report. The exit doors won't be locked if you haven't returned your pledge/membership card. As a matter-of-fact, we urge you to spend some time deliberating about your Commitments, both financial and service oriented. We don't want you to over-extend your budget or your time & energy. We do however, want you to pledge whatever you will feel is right for you.

The next Sunday, Nov. 22nd, will involve a celebration. The usual end-of-the-month pot-luck luncheon will be moved to that date and will be different in a number of ways. The church will provide sliced ham and turkey. There will be a more specific sign-up sheet for those willing to provide the rest of the meal. That brings up another guarantee: THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF FOOD! Also, THERE WILL BE LIVE, FOOT-STOMPIN TOE-TAPPIN MUSIC!! The tables will be festively decorated and arranged in a rectangle so you can not only see your fellow diners, but

there will also be room in the center in case you want to dance a jig!!!

...Marilyn Steingart

UUCLC Book Group

The Book Group, will meet Saturday, Oct. 17th at 3:00 pm at Pat and Wayne Linfield's home. The book, *Evolution of God*, will be discussed. Feel free to call for directions if you need them. (352-343-5536)

...Pat Linfield

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.

November Birthdays:

Ginny Morgan, November 12
Connie Sanford, November 21
Carol Wasserman, November 23

Florida District Connections

For those reading the electronic version of the Communicator, may we suggest visiting the Florida District UUA newsletter,

[Florida District Connections](#)

Just click on the above to go there. There are lots of newsworthy items well worth your attention.

Book Group

The group is continuing to read and discuss "The Evolution of God" by Robert Wright. This is the book which Roger Seidner will be talking about on October 25. We have finished section I, "The birth and growth of gods," and will continue with section II, "The emergence of Abrahamic monotheism", for our next meeting.

The group meets monthly, and we try to tailor the day of our meeting to fit individual schedules. All are welcome, so come and join us for some lively discussion. The next meeting will be on November 21 at 3pm at the home of Ted and Eleanor Fessler. If you plan to attend, call them at 483-7405 or email to canopus1@Comcast.net so adequate parking can be arranged.

Movie Goers...

We need help! Several of you UUs have sent in suggestions for the next movie, but we need some one to help make the decisions about what to show. Call if you can help. My number is (352) 735-0384. We are planning a showing sometime in mid to late November.

...Ruth Gray

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, November 2009

Many of you have read Michael Durall's new book, *The Almost Church Revitalized*, the "sequel" to *Almost Church*. Both provide valuable information and Durall's opinion of who we are, and our faith's numerical lack-of-growth over a number of years. What struck me is his message that although we, as Unitarian Universalists profess a status of being a "public" faith, one whose primary purpose is to serve the public good, in reality many of our congregations may not be addressing the significant issues of our wider world. Durall believes that most of our congregations are inward focused, thus "private" in nature. His writing prompted me to research UUA grants that congregations can receive for outreach beyond their four walls. One is featured this month.

The Fund for UU Social Responsibility offers grants

to UU organizations to increase their direct involvement in service, advocacy, and/or community organizing to create justice in the larger world; to increase linkage between UUs and the larger community; and to foster a spirit of generosity and action in all aspects of UU communities. Priority is given to new programs, groups who are growing, and those involved in creating social and economic growth. Matching grants are available to congregations considering participation in a Congregation-Based Community organizing group. The maximum grant is \$20,000; the average grant is \$8,800. The grant is made for one year; a second year may be possible after submitting a new proposal and a report about the funded grant year. Although a third year may be possible it is not likely; the Fund is not sustaining. Applications are accepted twice a year, March 15th and September 15th; complete application information is available on our UUA web site.

The grant is diverse in nature, and recent ones include: a community garden that will provide fresh produce daily for 1000 at-risk children; a program that ensures transportation for clients of a Healthy Start initiative which provides in-home mentoring services to struggling families at risk for child abuse; and the creation of an alliance between the religious community and the homeless community.

There are some restrictions. This grant is not made to individuals or for activities that are part of the ongoing work of UU institutions. The grant cannot be used as a pass-through from a UU congregation to a local non-profit organization, but can go towards enhancing UU involvement in a project.

On a personal note, I wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving and peace in your heart as we approach the holiday season. I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727 and always look forward to hearing from you.