



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

Church Service Programs in May

2 - "The Delicious Subject of Sin." A gentle look at the little 's' sins that make up our lives. Our guest speaker is Ruth Deussen, a member of the UU Fellowship of Marion County.

9 - Mother's Day. Rev. Susan Berryman, a non-denominational minister from Cassadaga, FL, will present "The Feminine View." She will discuss the elimination of feminine voices, energy and power in the western world and why equanimity and restoration is needed.

16 - Carol McCarthy, Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Family Organization, will speak about this disease and answer our questions.

23 - "Surviving a Concentration Camp." Gene Klein of the Villages will describe his life in 1944 and how he was determined to survive. This will be a very interesting and inspiring Sunday morning.

30 - "We Remember." This Memorial Day weekend we review our heritage. Each of us shares in the commonality of those who preceded and nurtured us. Our Consulting Minister, Rev. Roger Seidner, will lead us in a review of those we honored during their passage this past year.

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

The **UU Congregation of Lake County** meets Sundays at the American Legion Hall, 101 S. Bay 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.

May Adult Forum Programs

2 - Presentation and discussion of the amendments to our Constitution with Marvin Jacobson and Bob Young,

9 - Your recommended changes to the US Constitution,

16 - Consciousness: Autism, Obsession and Compulsion,

23 - Nietzsche: Resentment, Revenge and Justice,

30 - Open forum.

Join us Sundays at 9:45.

...**Bob Young**

President's Corner...

Russ Littlefield and I had a unique opportunity last weekend to connect with other Florida UUs. The Florida District Annual Assembly was held at the UU Church of Miami which has 5 acres of tropical foliage surrounding the sanctuary and their education wing and offices. The theme of the Assembly, The Challenge Ahead, urged us to look at our practices and to place reaching out higher on our congregational agendas. We attended (separately) as many workshops as possible and gained insight, ideas, and knowledge to share and discuss that will be so helpful to us. Russ will go into this more in his column in this issue.

We are striving to fulfill the congregation's expectations in our fellowship. Please let us know your concerns and suggestions; your input is so very important to us. We have placed a box beside the name tag box for your ideas. No signatures are required -- just your thoughts.

Now I would like to present to you the bios of another couple who became members the other week: **Carol & Bill Welter**.

(Continued on page 2)

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727

Phone: 352-383-2263

Email contact: canopus1@comcast.net

Website: lakecountyuu.org

Officers

Barbara Coats, President
Russ Littlefield, Vice Pres.
Pat Linfield, Treasurer
Patti Stiner, Secretary

Trustees

Henry Gray
Carol Ann Patton
Gina Rossi

Roger Benton Seidner, Consulting minister.
Phone: 407-905-5767

The *Communicator* is published the last Sunday of each month, from September through June.

Editor, Ted Fessler Phone: 352-483-7405

President's Corner (continued)

Bill is from Syracuse, New York. He attended Valley Forge Military Academy at Wayne Pennsylvania. Bill followed a family trail to Florida after his aunt moved here some forty years ago. He worked for many years as a radio DJ and is a professional "voice over artist", award-winning actor, and director. Bill's passion is performing arts. Bill is happy to have found our open-minded group and to embrace the UUs.

Carol was born in England, where her parents went during World War II. She studied classical theater and set design. In 1977, Carol came to the United States and she became a citizen in 1982. Carol and Bill crossed paths 20 some years ago when he directed the World Premier of a Civil War play called Shenandoah Autumn in which Carol played the part of a slave. Bill moved to Wisconsin and they lost touch, however Carol received Christmas cards once in a while from Bill. During this time Carol went back to college and completed courses in residential design. She was also raising her three children and working two jobs.

Ten years ago Bill was walking through the Grand Cypress Resort lobby in Orlando where Carol, unknown to him, was working as a floral designer. They married in Jamaica in July of 2006. Why the UU choice? They enjoy the open mindedness of

the group and enjoy the casual setting and lack of regimentation. And in Carol's own words "I feel safe with the UU group in Eustis. I feel I am with a group of people where there is love and acceptance for me, a minority woman, married to a white man who has a gay son."

We are so happy to have Carol & Bill as part of our Fellowship family. Bill is one of our new collection ushers and Carol graces us with her lovely singing.

...**Barbara P. Coats**

Social Justice Volunteers

The fate of Earth urgently depends on humanity's ability to imagine and build a world in which all beings are treated justly and live to their fullest potential within a self-sustaining web of life.

How do you imagine such a world?
What ethics, theology, or values fire that vision?

No matter our separate histories and experiences and no matter the source of our moral grounding, our separate paths are converging toward a common understanding that human flourishing and planetary well-being are inextricably linked.

Increasingly we can agree that our common future depends on the capacity of all humans to:

- Honor the integrity and interdependence of Earth's natural systems.
- Recognize that every form of life has worth and contributes to the whole.
- Affirm the inherent value, dignity and potential in every human being.

Accordingly I am asking anyone in the congregation interested in serving on the Social Justice Committee to contact me at 207-323-3811.

Steve Collins

May Birthdays:

Lynette Auberjenois, May 5
Wilma Vogt, May 5
Esther Smith, May 14
Jean Burda, May 20
Jerry Tatum, May 30

We are making an impact in the community...

This letter reflects the role we have in Lake County:

Lake County Board of County Commissioners

April 6, 2010

Reverend Roger Seidner
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake
County
Post Office Box 647
Windermere, FL 34747

Reverend Seidner:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, I would like to thank you for giving the invocation at the County Commission meeting today. Your message was both uplifting and encouraging.

Thank you for participating in this program.

Sincerely,

(Signed)
Welton G. Cadwell
Chairman

...Roger B. Seidner

UUCLC Crozer/UUA Fund

In April, 2009, Rev Roger Seidner and Clarice donated \$500 to UUCLC designating the money be used to start a Crozer/UUA Challenge Fund. This money has been kept in one of our bank accounts. Roger donated any money he received for his services at funerals or weddings during 2009, and friends and relatives as well as members of our congregation also gave generously to the fund

In October, our Board of Trustees voted to donate \$250 from the UUCLC checking account to the Crozer/UUA account which then totaled \$2000. We sent checks of \$1000 to Colgate Rochester Crozer School of Divinity and \$1000 to UUA. Both organizations greatly appreciated these gifts.

In November, 2009, Roger and Clarice started another challenge fund with a check of \$500, and

as a Christmas present to Roger, our congregation donated \$500. Currently, thanks to generous friends, the fund has a total of \$1,250. Our goal is to collect \$2,000 by the fall of 2010, so we can once again provide support to these two worthy organizations, Colgate Rochester Crozer School of Divinity and UUA.

Anyone wishing to contribute can place a check in the offertory basket at any time during the year. Make out the check to UUCLC, and on the "memo" line write "Seidner Challenge Fund," or "Crozer Fund."

Pat Linfield

Vice President's Message on the FL District Annual Assembly

The annual meeting of the Florida District Assembly was my first. I had a couple of surprises. The first surprise was that this is a very enthusiastic crew. When the right bunch of UUs gets together, they can generate something akin to evangelical fervor. The second was that it was more of a "religious" frame than I had expected: we did not have a service for the opener on Friday evening, we had a "worship service" and we talked openly about the matter of "faith."

The Friday evening kick off service included some great singing (Ken Hurto can direct more than our district), some readings related to our UU past, including a Thoreau reading featuring the wonderful resonant voice of Randy Becker, and a thoughtfully stirring message by the Rev Gail Tapscott of Fort Lauderdale. Rev. Gail pointed out that the UU movement has been a well spring of thinking influencing many religious movements including the Unity Church and Christian Science. She asked that we be proud of our heritage and claim those that belong to us including R.W. Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Thoreau. She said we have surrendered too much and we need to own our own religious past including the Transcendentalists who established for us a heritage of unique spiritual practice. This includes such things as wise reading, journaling and reflection through writing, conversation, meditation, and walking in nature.

The Saturday morning service included some great music again and featured the moderator of

(Continued)

the UUA, Ginny Courter. The Moderator of the UUA conducts the annual meeting and holds the highest lay position in the Association. She is one sharp lady. Her talk was long and I can only hit some highlights. It was called "Leadership by the Book" though to be honest I am still not sure why other than her frequent references to writers. She began with a quote from Alice Walker which boiled down to this "the world has changed." She asked us to look at some definitions of "Faith" and outlined James Fowler's six stages of Faith development from childhood's primal testing of the environment to the universal faith of leaders such as Martin Luther King and Ghandi.

She moved from this point to talking about building and maintaining the UU community. She took issue with the viewpoint that some have that since there is no agreement on community, anything goes. Community involves respect for those who are in our congregation. As she put it, "we don't come to a congregation to find people we love; we come to love the people we find." To build a community we need to do six things: (1) listen deeply (2) support elected leaders (3) appreciate those who do things (say thank you) (4) build bridges where non-productive conflict might arise (5) foster shared understandings and (6) refuse to vote for the status quo. One of the

reasons we need a UU community is to counter the toxic messages that come at us everywhere in our culture.

Late morning and afternoon offered a number of workshops. Rather than describing each workshop I attended, I offer here some questions that came out of each. Are you nurtured, inspired, impressed by what your congregation does for a worship service? (Workshop on congregational worship) What is the connection between our spiritual practice and our activism? How do we establish that connection? (From Spirituality to Activism) Do we know where our food comes from? How much do we know about the plight of migrant farm workers picking Florida tomatoes and citrus? (Transforming the Agriculture Industry: The Struggle for Fair Food)

Finally, I want to note that the District this year voted a significant by-law change which allows two youth members to serve on the board. This is a part of an expanded emphasis on the young people of our movement. Our new board President is Rachael Christenson of the Orlando Congregation. Joan Lund remains our District Trustee to the UUA and Ken Hurto our District Executive.

...Russ