



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

Church Service Programs in January

3 - "The Star of Bethlehem" Ernest Rossi, an astronomer of note, will enlighten us with his research and findings on this celestial event.

10 - "How Is Our Congregation Doing?" Bill Hermann and Gladys Becker will conduct a shortened service followed immediately by our Annual Meeting. All members are especially urged to attend.

17 - "Trout Lake and The UU 7th Principle" Frank Bishop offers thanks for this opportunity to speak about Trout Lake where he is one of the ten elected Directors. He is also the Chair of the Habitat Committee responsible for the land management plan (removing invasive species, controlled burning, restoration and selective timber harvesting.)

24 - Rev. Susan Berryman, a non-denominational minister from Cassadaga, FL will speak to us. Her topic will be announced later in our Sunday bulletins.

31 – Our Consulting Minister, Roger Seidner, will follow through on the Advent Message with a concern for peace in our time. Sharing with another Congregation and many others concerned for peace, this message will be delivered Jan. 24 as start of a peace seminar. We are not alone in our concern for peace and good will. Others share this burden for the 21st Century.

Our monthly pot-luck lunch follows this service. All are welcome to enjoy the food and fellowship.

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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.

January Adult Forum Programs

We continue 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.

Our schedule for January follows:

- 3** - Nietzsche
- 10** - Consciousness
- 17** - Open Forum, a discussion of topics raised by Discussion group members including you,
- 24** - Global Warming - a look at the science, with Ted Fessler,
- 31** - Open Forum.

Join us Sundays at 9:45.

...Bob Young

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.

Outgoing President's Message

Thank you, thank you, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years and it has indeed been a special honor and privilege.

(Continued on page 2)

UUCLC Information & Contacts

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Officers

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

Trustees

Ruth Gray
Henry Gray
Carol Ann Patton

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

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As I gazed around the Legion Hall this past Sunday it was heart warming to see folks sharing time with others, chatting up a storm during and after the service and lunch and in no hurry to dash away elsewhere. People were truly enjoying each others conversation and company. I wish that all social organizations should be so fortunate to have arrived at this eclectic stage in their development.

Panic was my first true reaction at being elected president. However peace replaced panic as my awareness grew that the real strength of any congregation **IS** the congregation and this one is extremely capable, collegial, competent and creative. Most of you have more UU'ism in your ears than I have in my entire body, although I'm trying to shape up.

With our change of venue we can look forward to meeting in a mold-free, clean and bright facility with comfortable chairs and wonderful parking. When the Woman's Club is renovated we can hope it will match those standards also. And then, when some kind soul wins the Lottery perhaps we can... you know.

The UUCLC really rocks and rolls as it forges ahead into 2010 and far beyond and we elect new officers on January 10th. Gracias,

Bill Hermann

Annual Meeting and Elections

Election of officers and trustees and installation of the new board members will take place at our annual meeting, January 10. Also, the proposed 2010 budget will be presented for your consideration. Your nominating committee, consisting of Ted Fessler, Phyllis Gillette, and Kit Tatum offers the following slate:

- President: Barbara Coats
- Vice President: Russ Littlefield (filling Barbara Coats's VP position)
- Secretary: Patty Stiner
- Trustee: Gina Rossi (replacing Ruth Gray)

Members may make additional nominations for these positions from the floor. Potential nominees must consent to having their names placed into nomination prior to their nomination.

The annual meeting will take place immediately after the 11 AM worship service.

Thank you...

Clarice and I are grateful to have the role of minister in retirement to such a wonderful family as UU of Lake County projects! We share more than you can imagine in that this is our primary place of worship.

We are grateful for the gift of \$500 toward CRCDS and UUA. We are halfway to the \$2000 goal for 2010. As last year, I will place all honoraria I receive in the fund. By this and other gifts during the year we should reach our goal of \$2000.

Thank you for this kind inclusion in our honor.

Roger Benton Seidner & Clarice Journigan

January Birthdays:

Ruth Gray, January 2
Royalene Millard, January 8
Mike Parrinello, January 14
Franklin Pennington, January 23
Tom Kelley, January 26
Bill Hermann, January 27
Bob Olsen, January 28
Carol Ann Patton, January 30

These words are excerpted from a thank you letter received by our consulting minister, the Reverend Roger Seidner and Clarice Journigan. Read by Roger at our Christmas service, they give an insight into the vision of our new UUA President, Peter Morales.

I believe that there is such a thing as an authentic religious calling that beckons us and that can guide our lives and I believe that this call has absolutely nothing to do with whether you are a theist, an agnostic or an atheist. Answering this call will make all the difference in our lives. If we follow that authentic religious call our lives will be filled with joy, meaning, and purpose. When we answer that call together, we can change the world.

What calls us is hope -- a hope that is grounded in our shared sense of human possibility. We are called to revitalize this faith and to make it even stronger force for compassion and acceptance. We are called to bring forth a new generation of leaders that take us into a multicultural future.

We are called to be a voice for justice and compassion in the public arena. We are called to support meaningful action for climate change. We are called to seek equal treatment of all people

We are most ourselves when we are loved, when we belong, when we are a part of something larger than ourselves. We are called to love, to welcome, to gather new people into our community so they too can feel the joy of belonging.

UUCLC Book Group

The Book Group will meet at 3 PM, Saturday, January 9, at the Rossi's home. They are at 25637 Laurel Valley Road, Leesburg (in the Plantation Estates). We continue to discuss the book, *Evolution of God* by Robert Wright and hopefully will finish it at this meeting.

If you plan to attend, please call (728-1631) for directions, and so that Gina can give your name to the guard at the gate. And come with suggestions for the next book!

Circle Dinners

Are we having circle dinners again this year? I keep hearing that question, and the answer is definitely "yes." If this is a new experience for you, these are like small pot-luck dinners, held at someone's home. It's a lot of fun, and a chance for some really good food (UUs are wonderful cooks!) and good conversation to go with it.

Starting next week, there will be a sign-up sheet every Sunday morning. Hopefully we'll be able to start the dinners (or lunches) soon after the holidays. We need several hosts, too, in order to keep the groups down to 6 or 8 people. It's easy to be a host, because the guests bring the food! More about this later -- but call me if you have any questions.

Eleanor Fessler 483-7405

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund, January 2010

After the usual hectic holidays it is time to breathe a sigh of "newness" and hope your congregation will experience and blessed and productive 2010. This will be the second column devoted to the thoughts and words of Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President as expressed at the October Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. Rev. Morales believes Unitarian Universalism should be far more than "the tiny, fringe religion it is today". Last month I wrote about growth and what must be done to accomplish this imperative.

Rev. Morales is passionate about social action and public witness efforts. He knows we have always been a faith who believes that true spirituality is fruitful in our acts of compassion and action to combat oppression and injustice. Although our prideful history indicates our being leaders in the struggle against slavery, rights for women, and the civil rights movement today we need to confront the great moral issues of our time: racism, human rights, immigration, economic justice, and preservation of life on our planet. In addition it is imperative that the forces of ignorance and fear that give rise to "militarism, nativism, and fundamentalism" be faced and resisted. Rev. Morales knows the foundation of "public exposure"

built by Rev. Bill Sinkford is a foundation on which we must build.

Rev. Morales stated we must be relentless, passionate, and articulate as spokespeople for our religious values. This will include leading efforts to help our congregations be moral beacons in our communities. Congregants know what the pressing issues are in their communities. Therefore, there will be a reorganization of staff services to increase our UUA's "effectiveness in harnessing the compassion and commitment already present in our congregations". Our UUA will commit to the Green Sanctuary program, whose "administration it has just undertaken, and in other initiatives to be developed in consultation and cooperation with UU Ministry for Earth".

In order to create many more opportunities to put our faith into action Rev. Morales' administration will build on our UUA's historic continuing opportunity for partnership with the UU Service Committee. This new partnership has already responded together to the Gulf Coast disasters, in Asia, and during the genocide in Darfur. Rev. Morales believes there is much more we can do together.

I wish your congregation good health and good relationships in 2010. 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 New Year one and all.