



The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakecounty.org)

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June Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

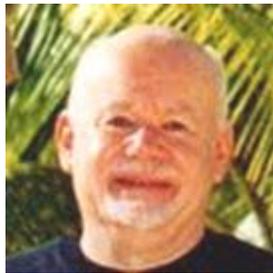
June 4 – Open Forum.

June 11 – Ins and Outs of our new building – what makes it tick.

More June Programs will be announced in the Sunday Bulletins.

Celebration Hall Service at 11:00 am

June 4 – “Being a Religious Liberal in Times Like These” with Rev. Randy Becker.



Times like these invite religious liberals to action -- but, what action? As hard as it may seem to believe, we have been in similar situations several times in recent history when our values were under assault and lessons from that history will serve us, and society in general, well into the future.

June 11 – Sensei Morris Sullivan: “The Body of the Buddha.”

We think of the Buddha as being a historic figure whose body passed away over 2,500 years ago. But Buddhism recognizes three different "bodies" of the Buddha: There is the body that we associate with the historic Buddha, the body that embodies the Buddhist path; and the body that we experience when our practice reaches a certain point. In this talk, Sensei Morris will give us an experiential introduction to the "body of the Buddha" and show us how our hands can become the hands of enlightenment.

June 18 – Bonnie Whitehurst: “Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky”

Florida has been settled by many diverse cultures at different times in history. This presentation will highlight peoples and events, memorializing them through narrative and music.

June 25 – Dan Gribbin: “Grace in the Stories of Flannery O’Connor”

Flannery O’Connor wrote about the South as she experienced it in the decades after World War II. A devout Catholic who corresponded with some of the leading theological figures of her day, she used her fiction to explore issues associated with her faith, as well as social issues raised by life in her region of the country. The results are thought-provoking and often hilarious, given the characters that she chooses to carry out these explorations. This talk traces the Unitarian Universalist concept of the worthiness of all people (universal grace) as that concept comes to the forefront in two of O’Connor’s best stories, “Revelation” and “A Good Man Is Hard to Find.”

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From our Minister...



Sunday, May 28th was a great day for all of us. I arrived at our new home to an excited crowd of congregants. Things were in place, we were ready to go for our first Sunday service, and even without the use of our kitchen we had a great hospitality setup. We waited outside in the traditional Florida May heat for our banner to arrive on the back of a motorcycle. The heat and humidity were not enough to melt the smiles and enthusiasm I saw that day. Our service was beautiful, connective, and full! As more and more people entered, I saw we simply made more room for them, bringing in chairs from the other room so everyone would have a seat. We filled our new home with love and laughter and joy. It was a beautiful thing to experience and I am so blessed that I got to be here with you for this day.

On Monday, I arrived early for my day of planning meetings and walked the silent building. As much as I love Sunday mornings in a church, there is something magical about coming in when no one else is here. The building is silent, but there are usually whispers of how the building feels. Any building. It became a spiritual practice of mine during my internship the past two years to come in early, before any meetings, and just sit in the sanctuary for a few moments. I wouldn't turn on any lights; I would just sit and spend some time in the silence.

This day, as I walked into the sanctuary and sat there, the sunlight streaming in, I felt joy. I felt peace. I felt a community. You filled this space with so much love and joy on Sunday that it was still resonating the next day. I sat and thought about how this community is already growing and how committed you are to that growth -- both internal and external. Even amidst the boxes and chaos of the move here, you have made a home.

Over the next few weeks and months as we complete our move into the building and construction is finished, we will fill this space with more than just chairs and books and the other things we need to run a church. We will continue to fill this space with love and joy and laughter. I am certain of it. I'm blessed to be on this journey with you.

...Rev Tracie

President's Message...

As you may know, I have been traveling since May 21 and have been with UUCLC from a distance. I have had a variety of thoughts and experiences, one of the blessings of travel:

CONGRATULATIONS UUCLC on our first service, i.e., Occupy Sunday in our New Building on May 28. By all accounts it was a wonderful morning and I applaud all of you who came together to make it an uplifting and meaningful event; hopefully the beginning of many more to come!

Our New Building will offer us Audio Visual capabilities, previously unavailable to us. I hope that we can leverage these capabilities to make services available to Snowbirds, as well as folks in the local community.

'We need not think alike to love alike.' Our nation is besieged by unrest and I continue to feel that we UUs can offer our community options that are not otherwise available: Opportunities for sanctuary for people who feel oppressed because they are 'different', opportunities for people to explore confusing issues, opportunities to escape daily burdens. This is an exciting time, as we plan programs in our New Building.

It was so appropriate that we could have Reverend Tracie Barrett-Welser with us for our first service in the New Building. Suzie Lockwood, our FY 2018 new Board Vice President and Rev Tracie officially signed the Letter of Agreement on May 28, 2017, confirming that Rev. Tracie is UUCLC's part time minister for the upcoming year. Yay!!

It is also fitting that Reverend Randy Becker will be with us for our second service in our New Building. Building is both a noun and a verb. The Becker family has helped build this Congregation in so many ways. We are fortunate to have Rev. Randy with us on June 4.

I look forward to my return and seeing you all.

...Chris

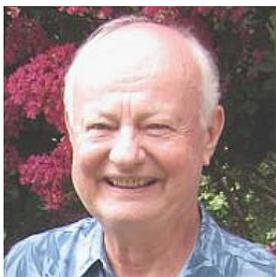




The **Care & Connect Committee** will hold its next meeting on June 11, 2017, immediately following the 11:00 Service. At the initial meeting in May, The Mission Statement was revised to reflect what this committee is able to assist with. On June 11th, we will be discussing how to network with existing services. Referrals to Care & Connect will always remain confidential. Please feel free to contact Joyce Lenahan, Chair, with any referrals or questions. Phone 352-602-4934 or email jjlen53@gmail.com

Joyce Lenahan

Congregational Pledge Report



The last day of this month, June 30, is the last day of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. The next day, July 1, is the first day of FY 2018. So it's a good time to review the status of our Pledges and Pledge Payments. Earlier last month, on May 13, I emailed each FY 2017 Pledger a Personal Pledge Report to remind you what you had pledged and to tell you what you had paid and how much you had yet to pay to fulfill your pledge. Here I give you the Congregational Pledge Report. As of May 26, you (41 Pledgers) had paid \$55,015 of your \$62,820 Pledge for FY 2017, leaving \$7,805 yet to be paid. Thus, Payments are about 88% of Pledges at a time when we are about 90% of the way through the year. As a Congregation, we have almost, but not quite, fulfilled our Pledge. In the rest of this month of June, please do your part, if you have not already done so, to help complete our Congregational Pledge.

Now, as for FY 2018, we began this year's Pledge Drive back in April. At that time, we published a Budget which proposed that we would receive Pledge Payments of \$76,364. Now as of May 26, a Pledge total of \$61,288 had been offered by 36 Pledgers. You can see that the Pledges made so far fail to meet our anticipated expenses by about \$15,000. We are grateful to those who have already pledged, of course, but we want and we need the rest of you who are Members, but have not yet pledged, to come forward and become Pledgers this year. This church is your church, yours to receive benefit from and also yours to provide support to. Please remember the Pledge Drive Motto: Let every Member be a Pledger, even if your Pledge is modest. And Friends can be Pledgers, too.

Thank you, **Stu Anderson UUCLC Treasurer**

Please forward your first and second choice for UUA president to Betty Emery and Suzie Lockwood (delegates to General Assembly) no later than 9AM June 24th. Send via email to bemery@mpinet.net. Candidate information is available at www.UUA.org.

Building Report - June 1, 2017

We received a temporary certificate of occupancy and our first service in the new building was held on Sunday May 30th. Over 80 people attended.

All of the building is now useable except the kitchen. The uncompleted kitchen work consists of the installation of the range hood and related fire suppression system. The City of Eustis building inspector was concerned with some building code requirements that have now been resolved. The City is now ready to issue the permit and work should begin the week of June 5th and be completed by June 16th, resulting in the receipt of the final certificate of occupancy.



The shrubs and trees installed by the landscape contractor are growing very well. The sod and grass seed is being affected by the drought but now that the rains have started, all of the landscaping should grow very well. Becoming familiar with the building systems, including entry and exit, security alarms, fire alarms, lighting, AC and heating, audio / visual and kitchen equipment, will take some time. The contractor provided tutorials for operation of some of the systems, and will provide instruction manuals and warranty documents for all of them. A program for operations and maintenance of the building and grounds has been established. Several members have volunteered to be the superintendents in charge of the various tasks and other members have volunteered to be helpers. More volunteers are needed. Independent contractors are being hired to perform the maintenance tasks that volunteers cannot handle.

There were some difficulties encountered that delayed the project, some that could have been avoided, and some that were unforeseen and could not have been avoided. But, all things considered, the building program has been a very big success.

...**Carl Skiles**

Classes, Workshops in our New Building...

The **Education Committee** has begun to put together many exciting new plans for the upcoming year. Right now we are looking at the possibility of even having some small group classes and workshops for our present population, as well as being prepared to welcome the possible families with children that may be coming to us in the near future.

The first step we are taking is to introduce a great series of 6 two-hour get-togethers, which will be cofacilitated by two of our members.

The curriculum to be used is from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith Programs for Adults. This program, titled Hindsight, Humor, and Hope: Who, Me, an Elder? and helps people as they begin to redesign their later years into a time of reflection, discernment, soul stretching, and new life possibilities. What a perfect time for us as we begin a new fellowship life in a new location with new leadership! Perhaps some of us may find answers to questions such as Who am I now? and What will I do that is meaningful to me and to my community? Please watch for future announcements about our proposed dates for beginning this meaningful series.



...Cecelia Everist

WE HAVE ENTERED OUR "BLUE BOAT HOME," NOW WHAT?

By Russ Littlefield



By most accounts, our first service in our new home, our Occupying Celebration, was exactly the joyful and spiritually uplifting experience that we all hoped it would be. Some of us are still a little giddy. Here are some highlights.

The transporting of our banner from the Woman's Club to its permanent home. Egor and Betty Emery, one of our most dedicated couples, carried our banner on motorcycle from the Woman's Club parking lot to our parking lot entrance, arriving right on schedule at 10:45. (They even have a photo to prove that they really did leave from the Woman's Center parking lot.) From there, Carl and Betty (if you have been with us, you know why) carried it to the entrance where

they handed it off to one of our two remaining charter members, Phyllis Gillette, and Suzie Lockwood, our Vice President. As they entered the sanctuary, Logan Heinzelman, standing at the podium with his guitar, guided us into singing "We Are Building a New Way." Our new worship space loves singing - the acoustics have turned out just the way we hoped they would.

We thank, Egor and Betty and Carl and Phyllis and Suzie.

The dedication and lighting of our new chalice. As most of you know, we have a new minister, The Rev. Tracie Barrett-Welser. Appropriately, she unveiled the new Chalice and dedicated it. Then Gina and Ernie Rossi, the generous couple who commissioned it from local sculptor Doug Hayes, lit it for the first time. It is oil fueled and when they touched a match to the wick, the flame flared impressively, almost as if it had been waiting to be released. Our chalice is an inspiring original. I have never seen another like it. For me, it is a meditation in and of itself.

We thank Gina and Ernie.

The Beauty in a piano. Another highlight was provided by Paulette Stewart Johnson, who gifted us our new piano. Paulette spoke of the specialness of music within her UU faith and then gave us another gift, the playing of Beethoven's Sonata in F Minor. Later in the service she played a moving arrangement of "The Lord's Prayer." One of my friends, who grew up listening to classical music - his father played violin in the Syracuse Symphony - and who has listened to classical music his whole life, told me he was impressed with Paulette and especially impressed by the fact the piano was in tune. Just think how it will sound when it really is tuned! ▶

► How we thank Paulette.

Rev. Tracie points us toward our future work together. Rev. Tracie's sermon, "Giving Birth to Our Dreams," previewed our future. She told us now that we have built, the real work begins. We have placed our blue boat home where it is visible and we have provided it with plenty of room for the wider community. But our mission isn't just here in this building, she told us. We are Unitarian Universalists, going out into the world and doing "what we can, where we can, when we can to heal.... ."

We thank Rev. Tracie.

Giving birth to a dancing star. So this was a service of celebration, honoring the talents and generosity of those who made, and will make, our beautiful home possible: Carl and Betty and Gina and Ernie and Paulette and Tracie and our other charter member, Royalene, and every one of you who remained loyal to the dream. Our church was and will continue to be truly a communal effort. It may have seemed a little messy at times, but Reverend Tracie was exactly right when she quoted Nietzsche, out of chaos can come a "dancing star."

And now that we have entered our "Blue Boat Home", let's see where we can take it.

We thank Ruth Gray.

June Birthdays

June Sweeten, June 1
Bob Young, June 2
Franklin Pennington, June 23
Pam Ward, June 26