



The Communicator

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

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11 A.M WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAMS – MARCH THEME: EARTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

April 3 – The Unity of Everything (Principles 6&7) with **Rev. Susan Berryman**. This is the last of four talks about our principles and how they inform our UU faith. Each of our seven principles requires a higher level of conscious awareness. We will discuss how the last two principles require the greatest expansion of consciousness to imagine a peaceful and just world community and the interconnected and interdependent web of all existence.

April 10 – "Respecting the Web of Life", with **Rev. Dr. Robert Tucker**. During this month in which we celebrate Earth Day, our Guest Speaker the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D., *Minister Emeritus* of the U.U. Congregation of Lakeland will speak to us about respecting the web of life.

April 17 – Flower Communion, with **Rev. Susan Berryman**. The Flower Communion commemorates human hope and decency which is widely celebrated during spring time in UU congregations everywhere. Please come and join us for this noble and meaningful ritual.

April 24 – The Fragile Earth and Human Faith, with **Rev. Roger Seidner**. Our Minister Emeritus will survey the role of faith in human response for creation. Various faith systems have different creation myths. A free faith concept carries a deep responsibility.

i thank You God for most this amazing
day; for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for
everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

ee cummings

The theme for our April services is "Earth and Sustainability." As UUs we are deeply committed to our Seventh Principle where we affirm our "respect for the interdependent web of our existence of which we are a part." I love the profundity of this principle and the joy of it. It also brings me great sadness. On the one hand I sometimes exult in it as the UU poet ee cummings did when he wrote the poem above. On the other, like you, I suspect, I am often deeply saddened by the thoughtless expediency that is bringing about, as Bill McKibben wrote, "the end of nature" as we know it. There is no better example than the fossil fuel industry's reaction to climate change. You can read about it in many places including in the UU book group's selection for April, *Dark Money*. In the chapter called "The Fossils," there is a carefully researched analysis of how gas and oil interests used dirty tricks to intimidate and discredit climate scientists and cast doubt on man-caused global warming. ▶

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► One of those scientists was Michael Mann, a highly respected professor of meteorology and geoscience at Penn State whose research Al Gore had used in his Nobel Prize winning "slide show" and film, "An Inconvenient Truth." A concerted campaign launched by conservative foundations (funded by oil and gas interests) and conservative politicians (lobbied by those same energy folks) dismissed Mann's research as fraudulent and, though he was a tenured professor, nearly got him fired. He received death threats. At one point, a package containing a white powder suspected to be anthrax was sent to his office. In the end, both the Pennsylvania legislature and the National Science Foundation, probably the most respected body of scientists in the U.S., upheld Mann's conclusions. But the effort to discredit him and his science left many still doubting the science behind climate change. The fossil fuel industry had done what they set out to do - implant doubt.

It's stuff like this that gets me down. We seem to have become a nation where those with the most money are able to buy those with the loudest voices who repeat the same untruths over and over until people begin to believe it. We like to think that truth will win out, but that is not always the case. As Al Gore said when he was asked why climate change legislation failed to make its way through the U.S. congress, "The influence of special interests is now at an extremely unhealthy level. It's now at a point where it's virtually impossible...to enact any significant change without first seeking and gaining permission from the largest commercial interests who are most affected by the proposed change."

In our UU community, we talk about standing on the side of love. It seems to me that in this community we are always learning what we mean by that. What we inevitably find is that in order to stand on the side of love, we must strongly stand on the side of truth, even if is "inconvenient." Stand with us during the month of April as we celebrate our commitment to the earth and the interdependent web of our existence in our services and discussion groups.

...Russ

9:30 A.M. DISCUSSION GROUP PROGRAMS

April 3 – TED Talks; “My Wish: Protect our Oceans” by Sylvia Earle and, if time allows, “Save the oceans, feed the world” by Jackie Savitz

April 10 – The great Courses: “Natural Law and Human Nature – The Problem of God” by Father Joseph Koterski, S.J.

April 17 – To Be Determined.

April 24 – Open Forum. Please bring your topics for discussion.

Dear Congregation:

April is the month of spring, rebirth and new beginnings. It is a time to celebrate how we resurrect over and over again with chance after chance to find happiness, peace and freedom.

April is the time of year to experience fresh air, cool breezes, and fragrant orange blossoms. It is a good time for laughter and gratitude; a time to remember just how sweet it is to be alive.

April is the best time to be outdoors, to smell the flowers, to feel the sunshine, to watch the birds and experience nature at its best.

April is a good time to practice reverence for mother earth, our one and only home, our perfect space ship with everything we need to survive.

April is a life loving life.

I wish for you all the pleasures of life, good health, good food, good company and good cheer.

Nameste,

Rev. Susan

President's Message...

Dear Congregation,

Can you feel the momentum? I can! UUCLC is on a roll.

We inducted 7 new members in March. Sunday programs – discussions and worship services – are richer and more integrated around monthly themes. Small groups meet every Wednesday morning for deep discussions about aging or spiritual journey; they are well attended and intimate sharing takes place. The Choir has over a dozen members! Book Club discussions spill over into Sunday services. The list goes on and on and that's a good thing.

Some time after Easter, our 'Snow Birds' start to migrate North. Our challenge will be to keep the momentum, as attendance decreases. One way to do that is for us to stay in touch during our times apart. Technology is a wonderful thing. I invite our Snow Birds:

- Please read the Communicator and check lakecountyuu.net for Board minutes and other news, and
- Call or E-mail UUCLC friends, Committee Chairs or Board Member with ideas or to find out what's happening.

Another way to build and preserve momentum is to plan for upcoming changes. We expect that FY 2017 will be a transition year, because some time during that year we hope to be able to move into our new building. As a result, we will have new opportunities. We will have space for classrooms and community programs. What will we do first? What talents do we have within our UUCLC congregation and what resources must we seek?

The UUCLC Leadership Council (Committee Chairs and Board Members) will be meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 1pm, primarily to brainstorm plans and priorities for when we are in our new building. Is there something that you have always wanted to see happen at UUCLC, but it wasn't possible because of rented space limitations? Please think about what programs we should/could be building, planning NOW, so that we will be ready to use our building to full advantage next year. Share your ideas within Committees, talk to Committee Chairs or a Board Member or come to the Leadership Council Meeting.

And we can DREAM together.

The UUCLC church construction will occupy 5 acres – the point farthest west and south on the property, leaving 20 acres for future development....20 acres of prime real estate.

In early February, members of the Board held a conference call with UUA Reverend Mary Katherine Morn to suggest that UUA collaborate with UUCLC to develop a co-housing venture (to be defined) on our 20 acres. Unfortunately, UUA advised that they are not in a position to undertake such a project. But, I believe that UUCLC should continue to brainstorm and explore options. Some pertinent information about our property and information about co-housing is outlined below.

The David Walker property land use designation has been changed to Mixed Commercial/Residential (MCR) and its design district designation is Suburban Neighborhood. The City of Eustis Land Development Regulations indicate that property with our land use designation—MCR-- “is allowed by right” the following uses (only selected uses are listed below):

- Accessory apartments
- Adult Congregate Living Facilities (ACLF)
- Multi-family dwellings
- Child day care centers, nursery schools
- Churches and church schools
- Schools (Elementary through College)

- Nursing Homes
- Social Organizations

Defining OUR DREAM – We would need to define ourselves clearly, clarifying how what we offer may be different from services offered by others. We would need to survey the local community for existing facilities, planned facilities and local needs. The following represents very preliminary brainstorming.

Reviewing literature about co-housing, including the Unitarian Universalist Community Cooperatives (UUCC) intentional living communities in Boston, MA, Foxdale Village, a not-for-profit Quaker-directed continuing care retirement community in PA, and early writing by architects McCamant and Durrett, it is clear that:

each co-housing community is planned in its context, a key feature of this model is its flexibility to the needs and values of its residents and the characteristics of the site.

We would envision that our endeavor would be grounded in the values and tradition of Unitarian Universalism. The following values speak particularly to our congregation related to the use of the space:

- Inter-generational collaboration
- dignity and loving respect
- sustainability
- community involvement; supporting the local community; social justice

Do any of these concepts stir your interest? There is a wealth of information on the web. You may want to start with UUA.org. Let's talk among ourselves. Talk to community contacts. One idea may spark the next, and the next...and that's momentum. Let's keep it going!

...Chris Higgins

Highlights from the BOT Meeting...

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held their monthly meeting on March 17. The meetings are during the daylight hours and are beginning early in the afternoon. They are open to all interested in the workings of your governing Board.

The first order of business was a report from the Treasurer. Stu Anderson reported that we have completed 66% of the fiscal year and have used 47.8% of the budgeted funds.

Remember: there is a Congregational Meeting on April 3, after the Sunday service. All of the members have a chance to vote on the Budget for FY 2016-2017.

The Leadership Committee, comprised of the BOT members and Chairpersons of the various committees reported to the BOT of their individual group actions and plans. This exchange of information among the committees is encouraged by the formation of this committee.

We heard from the wraP chairperson, Russ Littlefield. This group meets weekly to plan future Sunday Services and Discussion Group plans. There is a review of the previous day Service and Discussion.

Carl Skiles and Betty Emery reported on the progress toward completing the new building. The plans are being redrawn to lower the projected cost of the building.

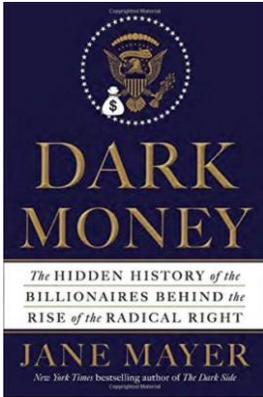
The Nominating Committee chairperson, June Sweeten, announced the slate of officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will vote on a Trustee and a Secretary.

A note from the UU Singers: they rehearse with eleven voices and will welcome anyone who would like to join them.

A full Draft of the Minutes of the BOT meetings is on the bulletin board within two weeks of the meetings.

...Kit Tatum

Book Club



You are invited to join the UU Book Group on April 19 for a discussion of *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer. The subtitle of this book is "The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right." Is the U.S. becoming an oligarchy run by a handful of billionaires, many of whom you never heard of? What is responsible for the profound economic inequality we are currently experiencing? Why are we not addressing some of our most pressing problems such as climate change? Why have Obama's proposals met with such rabid opposition? This book explores how the Koch brothers and other very, very wealthy people have constructed a network of political operatives and organizations to shape the U.S. government to align with their interests.

This book is available as an ebook from Barnes and Noble or Kindle at \$14.99. There is a floating copy available from me. Just ask.

April Birthdays

Frank Bishop, April 2
Roger Seidner, April 18
Debbie Miller, April 19
Bernie Greenberg, April 25
Pat Linfield, April 25
Ernie Rossi, April 26
Betty Emery, April 27