



The Communicator

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

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Welcome to the first ever summer edition of *The Communicator*. Because there is a lot going on this summer at UUCLC, we have decided to end our habit of taking a summer break from the newsletter. From now on, we hope to publish the Communicator Monthly.

We are not sure where this decision will ultimately lead, but one thing we do know is we want to publish good stories about our members' activities. To start things off, we are going to republish the great story from our minister about her adventures with her family in Tubac, Arizona. Susan and Peter took leave of us in June to build a family business in Tubac, AZ. Their concept is of a guest ranch and eventually, perhaps, a spiritual retreat center. As you will read, Susan is facing this challenge with good humor and resolution. We look forward to hearing more about their adventures.

Another great story is in the response that our Communicator editor, Ted Fessler sent back to her. As some of you know, Ted and Eleanor spent 13 years of their lives sailing and adventuring in the Caribbean. In his response to Susan, Ted gives us a little taste of what that adventure was like. Ted's story only whets our appetites for more about their odyssey in such places as Bonaire, Guatemala, Columbia, Venezuela, and the many sunny windward islands of the Caribbean. Maybe in future issues Ted and Eleanor will give us another glimpse into their lives at sea.

We hope that you will send us some news of what is going on in your lives. If we get enough of these we will put them together to publish in the September issue of the Communicator. We all love stories and even - gasp - gossip. You might even find some of that here from time to time. Besides these stories, this issue will give you a little news about the progress of our building project. Think of it, we will be home by early 2017! This is another amazing story being directed by two more incredible UUs, Carl Skiles and Betty Emery. We are building a home, yes, but over and beyond that, we are striving to create a "Beloved Community" within our congregation, our community, and beyond.

One significant way we are doing this is by our support of Open Door. Open Door provides day services for the homeless with the object of helping them get back on their feet. We continue our work there by filling open hours and by donating much needed supplies. One of our most dedicated members, Suzie Lockwood, has been overseeing this effort of heart. In this issue, she will fill you in on the good work we have been doing there.

As we wait for our new home to be completed, we continue to meet in The Woman's [sic] Center. The city of Eustis has extended our rental agreement through January and agreed to allow us to rent on a monthly basis after that. We are fortunate to have an excellent relationship with the City and Mayor Holland made a point of speaking at our ground breaking ceremony on June 19, displaying some keen insight into the UU difference and the role we will have in the Eustis/Mt Dora/Tavares community. Also at the ground breaking was City Commissioner Robert Morin and George Aragon, Vice President of Keator Construction. ▶

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► During the summer, we change our service format a bit. We have only one service which is kind of a hybrid worship service and discussion group. The Sunday message is usually delivered by members who volunteer to speak and lead discussion. Rev Roger continues to visit us at the end of each month to share his message and to join us for our pot luck. Within you will find a schedule of speakers we have had so far along with the programs coming up. Each month we have had a different lay leader and our thanks go out to them - Carl Skiles in June and Kit Tatum in July. Perhaps the most exciting part of this story is that we continue to attract visitors interested in UUism. Think how far we have come and think what we can do.

Remember, send us some stories to share about what is happening in your lives. Send them to Ted Fessler - tedandeleonor@gmail.com and be sure to copy Russ Littlefield - russjoyce@gmail.com. We miss our snowbirds and look forward to hearing from you.

...Russ Littlefield

Programs for Summer Services

Date	Coordinator	Speaker	Subject
July 3	Kit Tatum	Eloise Fisher	Religious Freedom
July 10	"	Janeane Reagan	The Neuroscience of Will Power
July 17	"	Dr. Franklin Pennington	What's Behind the Curtain? - Parapsychology and Spiritual Phenomenon
July 24	"	Lavon Silvernell	Natural Landscaping
July 31	"	Rev. Roger Seidner	Never Alone
Aug. 7	Russ Littlefield	Logan Heinzelman	Mental Illness and NAMI
Aug. 14	"	Marvin Jacobson	Humorous and Sad Stories From Working in Prison
Aug. 21	"	Ernie Rossi	Are We Alone?
Aug.28	"	Janeane Reagan	Understanding Developmental Trauma Helps Explain Antisocial Behaviors
Sept. 4	Pat Barton	Dr. Franklin Pennington	Please Squeeze the Shaman: Magic and Mysticism
Sept. 11	"	David Williamson of the Central Florida Free Thought Community	Topic to be Announced

The following email message was received by me (Ted Fessler) from **Susan Berryman**:

July 5, 2016

Dear Congregation,



We just finished celebrating the 4th of July here in very warm Arizona. We worked in the morning, rested in the afternoon and had a picnic then we drove up into the foothills on back roads to overlook Tucac to watch the fireworks. It was pitch dark (I was thinking of how Ernie would love such a dark sky) we sat in lawn chairs in the back of our pickup truck and enjoyed the breeze and the peace and quiet.

I hardly know where to begin to tell you all that has happened to me since I said good-bye a month ago on June 5th, (it feels like a year). I'll briefly list my experiences so far: - I packed up and cleaned the house alone in one week, arranged for a truck, movers ►

▶ and house closing; Peter arrived at 5pm the evening before the move and he packed and moved what was in the cellar that night into the 26' rental truck; - The buyers, title officers and banker arrived a 8am to close the house; -The movers failed to arrive at 9 am, new ones were luckily found and they arrived at 11:30; -The new owners arrived at 10:30am and started painting the original 75 yr. old woodwork as we were scurrying around to finalize our packing;- the truck was packed in two hours and we drove away; 20 minutes later the new owners called to say I had left my jewelry box, we turned around and went back; 2 hours later they called to say they found my overnight bag with my pills, etc; we arranged for them to UPS that to AZ;-- We drove 2100 miles going 55mph with Tucker between us on the seat; we arrived in Green Valley on the hottest day of the year at 115 degrees; we waited until the next morning at 6 am to unpack the truck;- -

We found that the AC at the townhouse was broken so we moved into the rather small "dome" house with my son Josh and his wife and Peter's son Tony; the house is cozy and amazing insulated so it stays about 76 degrees no matter the temp outside, but it is not big enough for our five personalities;- -We started working on the guest ranch and meeting with the county officials right away; we were met with worries about the ability to put in a septic system; we need to reduce the number of rooms and perhaps put it in a field 500 ft away (wish they had said this during the 45 day inspection period);-- Last Sunday I was watching a monsoon storm come across the desert and dust flew in my eye, we flushed it out but a few hours later it was still very painful so we went to the ER, they examined it and flushed it out thoroughly and sent me home. The next day it was still extremely painful so I tried to make an appointment with an eye doctor and had to wait until Thursday. The eye doctor found a cactus spine embedded into my eyelid that scratched my cornea every time I blinked. What a relief when he removed it!;-- A couple days later we were walking to the community pool at 8pm and almost stepped on a 4 ft. rattle snake! We heard its rattle and as I jumped I did not know if I was jumping toward the snake or away, Peter saw it next to him and he pushed us to safety off the road, we called Tucker who had walked over the snake and got it so mad. I got a woman to drive me home for the truck. It took me a long time to recover from the fear; --We found that the entire water system at the ranch needs to be replaced before we can start on the extensive plumbing work, we also need to replace the entire electrical system. My son Luke is coming next week for two weeks to help restore the electric.;-- We have started cleaning, patching and plastering the "Hacienda" (the living quarters for our family) it is made out of 90 year old adobe (mud bricks) and it is an art to know how to plaster dirt!, Every room needs the walls and ceiling fixed and plastered before we can paint. --We have discovered a city of pack rats that have inhabited the buildings in the absence of humans. There are an even larger number of moles who have taken over the lawns; -- This week the fire department is coming to supervise the burning of an enormous pile of debris, bushes and tree limbs that we've cleared so far.- -We have been turned down for one loan and are waiting to hear from another bank. Our fingers are crossed.

Well that's about it for now. It has been a busy time full of trials. I hope I am up for it! I've been longing for the more peaceful life as your minister. We'll see where this all takes me. Send positive energy!

With fond regards and love,

Nameste,

Rev. Susan

Susan asked me to broadcast her letter to all of the Communicator readers. I responded to her with the following:

Susan & Peter,

Thanks for the letter. Yesterday Russ & June visited us (they now live here in Waterman Village, just one street over from us--within walking distance) and we were talking about ending the newsletter vacation. And we both said we should ask if you would write something about your new life!

Your letter made Eleanor & I remember how it was when we retired and moved aboard our sailboat. We had just sold our house, had yard sales to rid ourselves of lots of stuff and packed up what we thought we would need on the boat in a UHaul truck. It was late October and we needed to get to Fort Lauderdale before winter set in. We discovered that the boat we had purchased had a bad history and had been washed ashore a few years before and had sustained some damage that had not been repaired by the previous owner. We discovered that 2 of the four water tanks leaked, the toilets needed to be replaced, the satellite navigation electronics were not working, the boat was infested by cockroaches, batteries were dead, and so on. We had hired a marine surveyor before we purchased Canopus but he never mentioned any of this. We both recall that at one point after an extremely tiring day, we lay there exhausted on our bed and said to one another "I hope we haven't made a mistake".

But, today we know that our leap of faith was justified and we did the right thing. We hope that everything will eventually work out for you too.

Ted Fessler

I forwarded Susan's Letter and my response to Russ Littlefield and that sparked his introduction story above. As I was finishing this edition of the Communicator, the second chapter in Susan's story arrived:

Dear Congregation,

It's been almost another month and time has taken on a different rhythm. All days seem the same and all time is measured by how hot it is. We get up at sunrise and start work at 6:30 and work hard in the relative cool of the morning. We eat a packed lunch together at about 11:30 and try to work for as long as possible until the heat demands we quit and get inside for the rest of the afternoon. We have made some progress, but the end is not yet in sight. We have electricity due to the generous contribution by my son Luke of his time and expertise. We have come a long way with scraping, plastering and painting. The water system is still in the design stages and we are grateful for the monsoon rains that are keeping the grass green. We have lessened the pack rat population by 11. At this point we're not positive if we'll make it, we are still optimistic, but it is more difficult summon. I am in the middle of the "leap" with no "terra firma" in sight. I am being tested to my limits to keep the faith. (I guess it wouldn't be a test if the limits were not challenged.) Our biggest worry is learning how to become a team and how to be excessively frugal until we can sell something to keep us going. (We do not have enough income to qualify for a bank loan). I am humbled and grateful, concerned and enthusiastic and still dreaming of a brighter future for our family.

I miss my UU family and that way of life. I have not written anything since I last wrote to you.

I am reading in the afternoon and would be grateful for some recommendations.

I hope this finds you in good health and good spirits. 

► Please take a moment and let me know how you are.

With much love.

Nameste,

Rev. Susan _____

I am at a loss as to how to respond to this last. (Susan will receive this newsletter at the same time as you do.) I am sure that she will appreciate hearing from you -- your thoughts and encouragement. Susan's email address is susanpeterberryman@yahoo.com.

...Ted Fessler

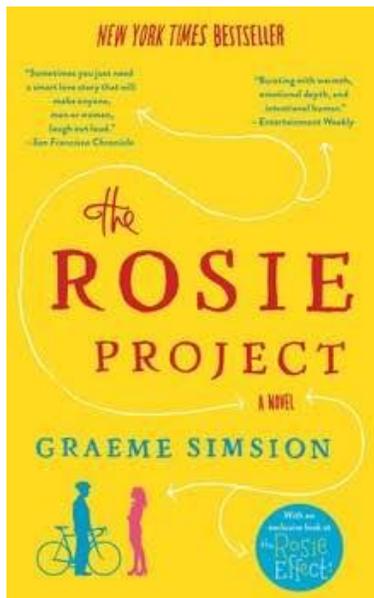
News from the Membership Committee:

This has been an exciting and busy spring and summer for membership. After welcoming 5 new members to our congregation in March, we are now preparing a new and improved orientation program for at least 5 new members this fall. It was decided to move the next orientation to later in the fall in order to include visitors from this summer who have expressed an interest. We have happily had more visitors than we usually expect this time of year.

Orientation will now include two Saturday morning meetings. The first will focus on the history of UU and the history of UUCLC. Participants will learn about our various committees and activities. The second meeting will involve discussion of homework from the first meeting which has asked in-coming members to identify what they would like to get from joining UUCLC and what they can bring to our beloved community.

A review and updating of the visitors' packet is underway. We are also making plans to work more closely with Gina Rossi and the public relations committee to make our public outreach efforts as effective and financially efficient as possible.

...Janeane Reagan



UU Book Group...

After two months reading about genes (*The Gene: An Intimate History*) and our ability to turn on the right gene switches and turn off those we might not like (*You are the Placebo*), book group decided to take a break with something lighter - *The Rosie Project: A Novel* (Don Tillman Book 1), by an Australian writer, Graeme Simsion.

Here is part of the Amazon description of the book:

The art of love is never a science: Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially inept professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers.

And here are some of the comments made by readers on the Goodreads Site:

"I can't remember laughing out loud so much for any other book." Roslyn Royale

"There are some parts that are more adult but I think this would be rated PG-13 rather than R" Reading Harbor.

The book group meets again on August 23rd at 3:00 in the Grove St office.

... Russ

Building News Brief

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!! Site clearing is complete and building pad and road grading is almost done. The building's steel framing members and roofing have been ordered and the concrete foundation work will start next week.

The design committee has selected colors and finishes for the building and is now working on furniture, fixtures and kitchen equipment.

Our contractor projected 210 days for completion and if all goes well and materials are delivered on time, we should have a finished building by the first part of March 2017.

Clearing and grading progress is shown in the pictures below.

...Carl Skiles





The Open Door Homeless Drop In Center

As some of you know, I have taken on the organizing of our participation in the volunteering to help at The Open Door here in Eustis.

First, a few statistics: There are over 3,000 Lake County STUDENTS that are homeless and over 400 CHRONICALLY homeless in our care area. The word chronically is what sticks with me. When you volunteer on a regular basis you become familiar with many of the faces there. You realize that as hard as the staff tries to find jobs and housing for them, there are some that have been homeless for a long time and unfortunately, the future looks grim for them.

It's brutally hot outside and is going to get hotter. Here is a place they can come in off the streets, sit in the air conditioning, get something as basic as a cold bottle of water, and some food without feeling as though they are begging. Everything they own is in their backpack that they can put in a locker without fear of theft while they wash their meager laundry and take a shower before the doors lock at 4:00pm. Then they have to plan for the night ahead. Some sleep in their cars. Some in the woods. They don't really talk about that but you hear it in their conversations.

It is humbling. It is heartbreaking but can also be heartwarming. I have seen the best of people volunteering their time and giving donations to Help the Homeless. Many from all over the area are bringing everything from a dish of food, case of water to a carload of supplies.

A special thank you to the members of our congregation for their donations and their time. As it has been written: Our work for a better world calls us to unexpected places as we harness love's power to stop oppression. Unitarian Universalists put our faith into action.

Peace and Love

Suzie Lockwood

Editor's Note: If you would like to help, sign up Sunday morning at church or call Suzie at (561) 670-0134.

News from the UUCLC Finance Committee...

On June 30, we completed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, and on July 1, we entered into FY 2017. So it is a good time to review where our financial picture stands. In this brief report, I will round figures off to two or three significant figures.

In FY 2016, 40 pledge units (persons or families) pledged an amount of \$53,900. They paid \$49,800 or 92% of that amount. So we came out short on pledge payments by \$4,100 or 8%. However, non-pledgers made donations to the General Fund of \$5,800, so that our net operating income was \$55,600. Since our FY 2016 Budget was \$59,500, we collected 93% of the budgeted amount, but still fell short by \$3,900 or 7%. By the way, if you did not fulfill payment of your pledge for FY 2016, you may still make payments with appropriately notated checks.

On the expenditures side, we spent only \$44,900 or just 75% of the budgeted amount. So we came out ahead by \$10,700 for FY 2016. However, during the coming FY, FY 2017, we can anticipate that our expenses will increase, and we will need to draw upon this past FY's surplus.

Separate from the General Fund, which is used for Operating expenses, are the Special Funds, of which I will provide a few examples. The Food Pantry Fund received \$570 in donations and contributed \$1,000 to Lake Cares, thus decreasing its balance by \$430. The Farmworker Fund received \$320 and contributed that same \$320 to the Farmworker Association of Florida. The Seidner Challenge Fund received \$1,225 in donations and sent \$2,000 in contributions to the Colgate Rochester Divinity School and the UUA. Other Special Funds, such as the Building Fund and the Memorial Fund, received little or no donations in FY 2016, but will be called in the coming FY to enhance our new building.

For the new FY, FY 2017, the number of pledgers has now reached 34 and the pledged amount, \$50,400. These represent decreases in pledgers of 6 or 15% and in pledges of \$5,200 or 9%. However, we anticipate that these numbers will increase during the FY, as we welcome new pledgers. We will be needing them, as our Budget for FY 2017 is \$67,200, which represents an increase of \$7,700 or 13%.

I repeat the pledge drive mantra: Every member a pledger, and friends can be pledgers too, even if your pledge is modest.

...Stu Anderson, Treasurer

August Birthdays

Russ Littlefield, Aug. 1
Wayne Linfield, Aug. 13
Alicia Sparks, Aug. 18
Clarice Seidner, Aug. 21
Suzie Lockwood, Aug. 21
Sue Jantz, Aug. 24