



The Communicator

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

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June 5 – “Trust, Love and Believe” with Rev. Susan Berryman. This is a culmination sermon to express the joy and sorrow, the gratitude and grief, and the lessons in how we trust, love and believe.

June 12 – “It’s Not a Card; it’s a Whole Deck: How Racism Harms Us All” with Marta Pearson. Do you cringe when you hear people say, with disdain in the voices, “Why are they playing the race card again?” I want to help people realize that the “cards” are a very real fact of our everyday lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren; actual events that have and continue to affect and wound us. Until then it will continue to be us vs. them and we all pay a price.

Summer Service time will be changed to 10:30 from June 19-September 11. These will be lay-lead presentations combined with our celebration of life service.

June 19 – “Discrimination” with Robyn Kelly.

June 26 – “Break Time” with Rev. Roger Seidner.

Dear Congregation,

This is the end of our season and it is time for me to go. It has been a wonderful year and I have loved being your minister, teacher and friend. As life would have it, circumstances have conspired to answer a deep prayer of Peter and mine. We each have a son who has difficulty functioning in this world. Peter’s son has Asperger’s Syndrome and mine has learning disabilities from head trauma. We have worried about their prospects and we’ve prayed for their future and for some form of security and livelihood. This became particularly acute this year when Peter was worried about his health and he visited his son in Boise and found him shut in his trailer home with all the windows covered - and my son returned from Mexico out (where he had lived and worked for twelve years), of fear because the Cartel took over his business and his friend was kidnapped and tortured.



It appears our prayers were heard when my son called on a property near where he is helping Peter fix up a studio. It’s an old guest ranch that has been abandoned for years when the owner was killed in a car crash. When I went out to Tucson for my niece’s wedding in April they showed me the property and asked what I thought. I thought it looked like lot of work, but with potential, so we decided to go for it. We offered what we could afford (if we sold all our real-estate) at much less than the asking price with the contingencies that we have 45 days to look into all the legal issues including getting water rights, the wells inspected and the property rezoned for commercial use, etc. The 45 days were up last week and despite all the odds, it looks like everything has fallen into place.

So this means I’ll be going out to Arizona to help renovate and create a business for our family. I will take a leave of absence until the project is on its feet. Our sons are thrilled and we are overwhelmed, but trust that this is the thing to do while we still can. I am hopeful and I trust spirit. You know it is my policy to say “yes” to the universe even if it’s not quite what or how or when I would like. ▶

► This also means you are free to find a replacement for me and we will keep in touch and see what unfolds.

I am not worried about you because I feel very secure in this congregation's ability to move forward with or without me. The WRAP committee is now fully functioning and with the Board and Leadership Council it has the ability to maintain and grow the vision of this church.

I want you to know that I love and believe in you and the concept and meaning of this church. I am attached and do not know what the future has in store, but as Russ said when I told the Board, "It is an opportunity". And indeed it is. It's an opportunity for this congregation to own your dream and to shepherd it into the next phase and into the new building.

I am so grateful for the opportunity you've given me, for the time we've spent together, for all I have learned and for all of your support and love. I can't tell you how much this experience has meant to me. I feel a great sense of loss for I hold you, the dream, vision and mission deep in my heart.

With Love and Appreciation,

Nameste,

Rev. Susan

June Birthdays

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

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The Seidner Challenge



Once again, Clarice and Roger Seidner have challenged this congregation. They will give \$1000 toward support of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS). They are asking us to match their money. Once we have done so, \$1000 will be sent to the UUA and \$1000 to CRCDC.

Why should you make a contribution? First, we support the UUA with our GIFT money every year. It is very important that we do this as the UUA is the professional organization that offers us and its members nurturing in many ways. We receive professional advice through its Congregational Life staff. We have consulted our Congregational Life representative, Maggie Lovins, many times as we have built our congregation and moved closer to having our own home. In addition, the board, our committees, and many of you as individuals have become familiar with the excellent UUA website as a resource. It is a huge repository of information about Unitarian Universalism and a valuable spiritual resource. ►

▶ Secondly, \$1000 of the challenge money will go to Colgate Rochester Crozer. Specifically, \$500 will go to a student who is studying there to be a UU minister and 500 to the CRCDS general fund. This congregation has a special connection to CRCDS. To begin with, it is Roger's seminary. Some of our new members may not know that Roger served as our consulting minister for twenty years, since the time this congregation began meeting in a local restaurant. And now, Roger and his wife Clarice have chosen us as their home congregation even though they live nearer to Orlando. We owe Roger, who has never asked for any compensation, both our gratitude and thankfulness.

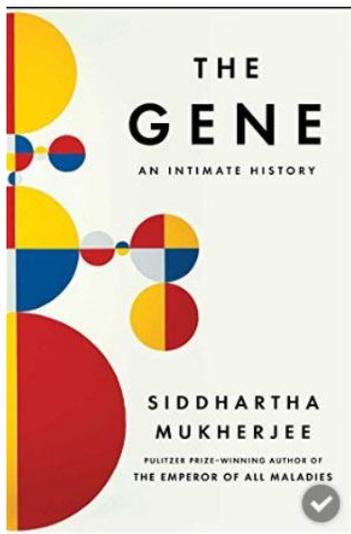
Finally, this seminary has a special connection to another of our members, Esther Smith. Esther's husband was a professor at CRCDC. One of his students was a young Martin Luther King when King was just beginning his ministerial studies.

Roger points out that there are not many seminaries left in the northeast where those of a liberal bent can study. Andover Newton Theological School, a major training facility for UU pastors in Massachusetts, is closing its campus and that is part of a national trend. Supporting CRC may be more important than you think.

I urge you to consider helping to meet Roger's challenge. Please join me in supporting the UUA and celebrating our special connection to CRCDS.

Russ

Book Club



The UU Book Group's selection for June is "The Gene," by Siddhartha (no, not that Siddhartha) Mukherjee. Jennifer Maloney, a book critic for the Wall Street Journal, has named it as one of the "Hottest Spring Nonfiction Books." Here is what she says about it:

Mr. Mukherjee's book on cancer, "The Emperor of All Maladies," won a Pulitzer Prize and has nearly 700,000 print and e-book copies in circulation, according to his publisher, Scribner. Now he's back with a history of genetics, weaving together science, social history and the painful story of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder running through his own family. The tale begins in Mendel's pea-flower garden, in a Moravian monastery in 1864, and ends with the frightening ethical questions now facing us."

The book groups' next discussion is on June 28 at 3:00. The book is available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble as an ebook and hardcover. It was just published in May, so you will have to check with your local library for availability.

Dear UU Members...

Below are a dozen books to look into this summer whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned veteran of Unitarian Universalism. I have enjoyed many, learned from them all, and have yet to fully read two of them. Thanks to Robert M for giving me this inspiration by mentioning UU Rev. Robert Fulghum's book, "All I Really Need to Know, I learned in Kindergarten."

A Dozen Summer Reads for Those Wishing to Learn More about UUism and Progressive Religion

1. Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism, Frederic Muir, Editor
2. All I Really Need to Know, I learned in Kindergarten, Robert Fulghum
3. Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism, by Carl Scovel and Kathleen Rolenz

4. Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism,, Wayne Arnason and Sam Trumbore, editors
5. The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, Peter Morales, Editor
6. Beginner's Grace: Bringing Prayer to Life, Kate Braestrup
7. Here if you Need Me, Kate Braestrup
8. A Chosen Faith, John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church
9. A Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology, Forrest Church
10. Progressive Faith and Practice: Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By, Roger Ray
11. Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square, Paul Rasor
12. 101 Reasons I'm a Unitarian Universalist, Ed Searl and Jeff Briere, The Royal Nonesuch Press

...Russ

Building News Brief

The last two months have been used to modify the project with deletions, substitutions and adjustments to reduce the cost to more closely meet our budget, and to develop a contract document that meets our needs and is fair to both parties. These tasks have been completed successfully. Although the cost of the project is still slightly more than the funds we have available, we can make up the shortage by one or more of these methods: a new building fund drive, obtaining a loan, selling some of the land, or by other methods still to be decided upon. We have about nine months to raise the needed funds.

The plans were submitted to the City of Eustis for obtaining a building permit. The City completed its review and required a few minor technical changes to the plans, which have been made and the plans resubmitted to the City. We expect the permit to be issued within two weeks.

The contract documents have been completed and will be signed by the contractor on June 6th and delivered to the UUCLC on June 7th for signature. Construction of the building and sitework can begin after June 7th as soon as the building permit is issued.

...Carl Skiles

Please notice: In keeping to our summer schedule, there will be no Communicator for the months of July and August.