



The Communicator

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

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January Programs

Discussion Group at 9:30 am

January 8 – Out of the Box: Envisioning our Future, guided by Susan and Peter Pitzele.

January 15 – Ted Talks: “Can a Divided America Heal?” by Jonathan Haidt and, if time allows: **“It Is Time to Reclaim and Reinvent Religion”** by Sharon Brous.

January 22 – The Great Courses, “The Aging Brain”, Lecture 9: “Parkinson’s Disease and Stroke”, By Prof. Thad A. Polk, University of Michigan

January 29 – Open Forum, Bring Your Topics.

Worship Service at 11:00 am

January 8 – Sensei Morris Sekiyo Sullivan: Buddhism and Beloved Community. Buddhist Teacher M Sekiyo Sullivan returns to share some more insight into compassion and community. Sensei Sullivan leads the Volusia Buddhist Fellowship in Deland. He is the author of *Wisdom – Compassion – Serenity: First Steps on the Buddhist Path*.

January 15 – Marta Pearson: My Great Own Determination - Defining God & Goals. Marta returns on Martin Luther King Sunday to tell us about her own spiritual journey, a lonely struggle from believer to atheist to agnostic and beyond. When belief is not enough, what actions determine our hells and our heavens? What we must believe in and do to make a difference in our own lives and in the world.

January 22 – Rev Roger Seidner: Adversities and Adversaries. In a long anticipated return to our pulpit, our Minister Emeritus will speak to us about facing the reality of our existence in a post election world.

January 29 – Pete Kersey: It is an Awesome World. UU speaker Pete Kersey from the Vero Beach UUs will share his vision of the marvelous nature of the world, the awesome people in the world, and the awesome uniqueness of each of us. Pete’s personal discovery of the world of Unitarian Universalism was an awesome experience that maybe you too have experienced.

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The Communicator is published monthly.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR and Auld Lang Syne!!

"Auld Lang Syne" is an extremely old Scottish song that was first written down in the 1700s. A good translation of the words "auld lang syne" is "times gone by." When we sing this song, we are saying, "We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for times gone by."

So, as we sit at the brink of the New Year, it's fitting to thank those who came before us and positioned us to be where we are today. Thank you to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Charter members and early friends; thank you to our benefactors, especially, Ruth Gray; and thank you to our many well-wishers and current members and friends. ▶

► UUCLC is looking forward to an exciting year!

Every day brings more progress on our building. If you haven't seen it, take a ride past on the corner of David Walker Drive and Mt Homer Road in Eustis. BUT, please don't pull on to the construction site, as we are under strict protocols to protect car tires, visitors and workers. Work is on schedule and we hope to conduct our first service in the building in April. As you will read in the Board minutes and/or Board Tidbits in this Newsletter, we are planning a Community Grand Opening about a month after we are certified for occupancy. It will be fun and we need volunteers on the 'party' committee. We plan to have musicians and festivities for children. So, bring your ideas and help us show off our Congregation and our new building! See Gina Rossi or a Board Member to see how you can help with the Open House.

As you know, we've had an imposed 'breather', because the Woman's Club (owned by the City of Eustis) has been unavailable to us for two Sundays (Christmas and New Years Day). But, we are ready to resume services on January 8 when Sensei Morris Sekiyo Sullivan is with us from the Volusia Buddhist Fellowship. Sensei Sullivan has been with us before and his Buddhist perspective dovetails well with UU principles. Please come renew your spirit in the New Year with UUCLC and Sensei Sullivan on January 8 at 10:50 am. Discussion Group will begin at 9:30 am.

Our Congregation continues to welcome new guests every Sunday and formally inducted seven new members in December: Cecelia Everist, Fred and Joyce Axelson Lorch, Lynn and Robert Myatt, Cindy Ross and Lois Sanford. Our Membership Committee plans to conduct another Orientation Program in February; this time on two Sunday afternoons. Please see Janeane Reagan or one of the other Membership Committee members if you have questions about UU or the Orientation session.

One of the reasons that I am a member of UUCLC is that I find within the local congregation and within the region and UUA, like minded people that help me to find ideas and words that speak to me. In closing, I am 'lifting' words from a recent UUA Southern Region holiday message.

"This holiday season, may we find the light when we need it, and be the light when we can. May we have peace, rest, good food, laughter, and deep, sustaining connection with our loved ones.

The world needs Unitarian Universalists, and we need each other. In 2017, let's dream, build, fortify, and reach out together." Together, UUCLC can work to bring hope, love, justice, courage, and joy into the world in the year to come.

Peace and joy and love,

Chris Higgins, President of the Board of UUCL

January Birthdays

Robyn Kelly, January 2
Royalene Millard, January 8
Linda Bystrak, January 18
Bill Hermann, January 27

Building News Brief January 3, 2017

The building construction is progressing rapidly and is on schedule for completion by the end of March. The studs for the exterior and interior walls are all in place, the backing for the exterior siding has been installed, and is ready for the siding. The metal roofing is all in place. Installation of the windows will begin next week as will the interior installation of the drywall. Air conditioning ducts have been partly installed as has some of the electrical wiring.

Most of the interior furnishings and fixtures have been selected and ordered, including chairs, flooring, wall coverings, kitchen equipment, and audio / visual equipment.

The problems with the misplaced bolts in the foundation have been resolved, the lost time has been made up, and the work is going smoothly and on schedule, as expected.

...**Carl Skiles**



Tidbits from the Board of Trustees December Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lake County (UUCLC) meets once a month at our Temporary Office in the Wells Fargo Bldg in Eustis, Florida. This meeting is open to all members of the congregation.

Our December meeting was opened by Chris Higgins, President with a moment of silence and Chalice Lighting on Thursday, December 15th.

Stu Anderson indicated that although we are on target with funds, there is always a need to raise funds through pledges, membership drives, and developing an annual event that would bring fun and funding to the congregation.

A committee fair is planned for January 29th following the service

Betty Emery has been in contact with Orange County Solar Co-op regarding the viability of Solar Panels and energy use for UUCLC. Betty gave a comprehensive report on her dialogue with Orange County Solar Co-op. To see more, refer to minutes that will be posted soon after the January Board Meeting.

A lengthy discussion on the 'Grand Opening' of our new building was had. The where, when, how and who is invited to this was discussed. The following is the quick version of that discussion.

- We will have a 'First Service', a 'family-friendly' community-wide open house event, and then a formal Dedication of the Building. Dates are to be determined.
- A committee is forming to take care of the details of this format, the Wrap Committee will be planning the First Service and the formal dedication of the building. All members are invited to join committees, and to volunteer to work on these events.

Chris Higgins has received a 'nibble' for our new minister resulting from the ad on UUCLC website. More to follow.

The fruits of the hard and diligent work of the Building and Design Committee are becoming more and more visible with each passing day. The building is progressing and we are on target for the expected completion date.

The Design Committee has ordered the chairs, door and other items that will be here in time for completion of the building. The Design Committee is now looking at kitchen appliances and items for the kitchen.

An Amazon account and want list registry will soon be available to all members to purchase small kitchen items that may be needed.

We have seven new members who have joined UUCLC.

The Wrap Committee works diligently and meets weekly to provide meaningful discussion and service. Plans for January and February to be announced soon.

Coming Board Meetings have been set: Thursday, January 19th at 1:00 pm and Thursday, February 16th at 1:00 pm.

This is just a snapshot of some of the happenings on the Board. Please check the website for the minutes of each meeting that are posted for your review and information.

I offer this snapshot of the meeting for your information and to spark an interest in attending one of these meetings.

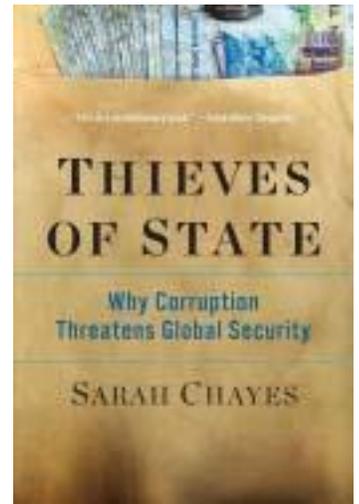
...Joyce Axelson, Secretary

UU Book Group...

The book group will not meet in December, but will resume in January with "Thieves of State: Why Corruption Threatens Global Security, by Sarah Chayes.

Here is a comment from the New York Times review of February, 2015: Chayes's "Thieves of State" makes a strong case that acute corruption causes not only social breakdown but also violent extremism. She calls this a "basic fact," showing that where there is poor governance — specifically, no appeal to the rule of law and no protected right of property — people begin a search for spiritual purity that puts them on a path to radicalization.

At the Wells Fargo Office (no, not for a protest, but for a book discussion) on Jan 24 at 3:00. Non-readers always invited.



Dear Congregation,

Greetings from Rancho Santa Cruz.



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of new years.

It will take all of us to stay positive and hopeful in these new and more conservative times. Please take comfort in your beloved UU community.

We are working hard every day toward moving into the ranch. We have run into one set back after another. We are tired but hopeful. We hope to be open by February.

Just this week we got Wi-Fi, so please let me know how you are. You are always my heart and mind.

Sending love.

Nameste

Rev. Susan

Tai Chi class

Tai chi is a gentle form of movement that was developed in China. It is practiced standing up or seated, if necessary. It has many health benefits: improve balance and posture, blood pressure, arthritis pain, focus and memory. Chris Cleveland, a certified instructor, will be teaching a 6-week session on Tuesdays at 9-10 am at the U.U. Office from January 17th-February 21st. If you are interested, sign up at the table after church. If you have questions, call Chris at 989-627-1234.