



The Communicator

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

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11 AM Worship Service Programs

November 1 – This Sunday begins a month with the general theme of Membership, Belonging and Community. We are pleased to have Humanist Rabbi, Steven Cardonick returning to kick off this theme on an interfaith level.

November 8 – A special morning with Roy Zimmerman who is on a tour of UU Congregations in Florida. We were fortunate to be able to book him for a Sunday morning appearance. He will be filling the 11:00 message slot with music that both entertains and speaks to deeply felt UU concerns. Titles like "I Approve This Message," "Creation Science 101," and "Hope, Struggle, and Change" give you a hint as to what he is about. Here are a few commentaries on Roy and his music:

"Without a doubt, Roy Zimmerman is among the most important political commentators of the last few decades, and in the end, it's the music that unites and disarms. With music this good and humor this insightful, there is good reason to be optimistic." - **No Depression Magazine**

"Roy Zimmerman's lyrics are intelligent, quirky and right on the money. He asks the right questions and paints political situations with such articulate truth that you find yourself laughing out loud with delight." - **Reverend Meg Barnhouse, First UU Church of Austin, TX**

"The first time I heard Roy Zimmerman perform, I knew he was a match for Unitarian Universalism. He hits every one of our Seven Principles, in ways that are as incredibly funny as they are clever," says **Linda Laskowski former UU national board member.**

"Roy's lyrics move beyond poetry and achieve perfection." - **Joni Mitchell**

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November 15 – Dan Gribbin, well-known Florida folk musician and UU speaker, will continue our exploration of Membership, Belonging, and Community as he speaks on "What Constitutes our Community."

Robert Putnam's study *Our Kids: the American Dream in Crisis* documents the effects of "the neglect of the commons" - the lack of citizen engagement in our civic life. When children, especially from low income families, lack mentors and guidance, they are especially vulnerable, and our society as a whole will suffer.

November 22 – This UU Community has been especially fortunate. We have survived and even prospered since we were chartered some 20 years ago. We have had and have talented leadership as we get closer and closer to owning (yes, I said "owning") our own spiritual home. As we near Thanksgiving, several of our members will present a special service of Thankfulness in music, poetry, and readings. Coordinated by Eloise Fisher. ▶

► **November 29** – Our beloved Minister Emeritus, Roger Seidner returns with a sermon titled, "Giving thanks to _____". Roger writes, "Humanity has anciently recognized the need of gratitude to something beyond human understanding. We explore the ongoing concept of Thanksgiving and Faith."

Dear Congregation,

I am writing to you looking out of my window at cactus, mountains and blue sky, hearing the call of cactus wrens and quail and already feeling the effects of the desert sun as it rises in the clear morning sky promising another hot day. I am in a foreign environment thinking of you, picturing you during Sunday discussion and service, and at the office in meetings or at choir. I miss you and feel a closeness and a distance at the same time.

I am bifurcated in my mind, heart and spirit. I feel the need to be in two places at once. If only I could I would be here and there at the same time.

Peter will be going in next week for one more procedure that should take a couple of weeks to fully recover. He has also been told that he has double hernias that should also be fixed. He's in no mood for that!

Time seems to be dragging as we proceed through this process. We thank you all for your support and patience. I am pleased to see by your emails that the fall season is in full swing and going smoothly.

As November starts it is the time of year to gather in all we have sown, reaped and harvested and look at the abundance in our lives. Many of us have had times of trials, illness, loneliness, worry and despondency, but these low feelings are best balanced by remembering wellness, friends, family and acquaintances and what brings us joy and happiness. As we move ever forward we are always faced with change, especially how we change. Maintaining happiness through the inevitable changes is called grace.

I am sending you the following wish:

May grace abound in your life.

May you find peace, balance and happiness.

And may you be a source of happiness and grace for others.

With much love,

Rev. Susan

PS. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason, I am usually available by phone or email.

President's Message...

Hello Congregation,

Last January 2015, Reverend Susan Berryman, working with our then new Worship, Research, and Planning (WRAP) Committee, introduced themes for our Sunday Services. I'm happy to recognize the ongoing work of that committee, which includes coordination with the Discussion Group, and planning of the summer programs, and the music on Sunday. Thank you WRAP Committee for your good work on behalf of this congregation!

Our October theme was "Searching for Faith". We heard different approaches and definitions of Faith from our October speakers, which included the Reverends Tucker, Becker and Seidner, as well as three congregation members/friends, who spoke about their personal journeys.

In November, we can expect to hear various perspectives around the theme of "Membership, Belonging and Community". Traditionally, November is when many of our 'snow birds' return to us. I look forward to celebrating our community, both what we can be for each other and what we can be for the broader community beyond UUCLC. ►

► UUCLC members, if you have ideas for program themes that you would like to see developed in the future, talk to a Board member, talk to or email our minister, or submit a suggestion. We want to hear from YOU.

In the October issue of the "Communicator", I indicated that I would write about a Solar Proposal for the new building this month. But now I realize that more information is needed and such an article must wait until after we are in a better position to determine what our building will cost.

On October 27, Rispoli and Associates, the architectural firm that has designed our building plans, will be inviting four construction companies to submit sealed bids to construct our building. After bids are received around the end of November, they will be evaluated and assuming at least one company is responsive and within budget, an award will be made. We can expect our Building Committee Chair, Carl Skiles, to brief us as we move through this critical process.

I dusted off the UUCLC Vision and Mission Statements that the Congregation approved on January 20, 2013. I think we are making good progress on our vision.

I believe that a Congregation is a dynamic, living entity and therefore its committees, programs and statements are subject to change. Now come the questions: are we living up to our vision and mission? Do they cause us to stretch? Do they require revision? Give it some thought.

VISION—January 20, 2013

Within the next 5 years, the UUCLC will be located in our congregational home, where our mission and growth in membership can be accomplished.

MISSION—January 20, 2013

UUCLC is an inclusive non-creedal fellowship that works for a just community and fosters a lifelong search for personal spiritual fulfillment.

...Chris Higgins

Building News!

The architectural plans and specifications for the building are ready for bidding. The plans will be printed on Monday Oct. 26th and hard copies and a "drop box" email will be distributed on Tuesday October 27th. to four invited bidders.

The contractors will be requested to return their bids to our architect, Rispoli & Associates Architecture, Inc. on Nov. 30th. The architect will receive the bids, review them to determine that they are valid and conform to the requirements of the invitation, tabulate them, and make recommendations to the UUCLC for further action. If one or more of the bids are within our budget, a contractor can be selected and an "award of contract" made to the selected bidder.

That bidder can then submit an application to the City of Eustis for a building permit and begin construction - - probably in February 2016.

If the bids exceed our budget, we must reduce the cost by redesigning the building, deleting some of the planned features, modifying some of the equipment and furnishings, delaying some of the construction until we can raise additional funds, or a combination of these measures. We hope this does not happen because it will delay the project and might require additional expenses for architectural and engineering redesign.

A hard copy set of the plans and specifications will be available in our office if anyone wants to review them. Also, I will email a "drop box" set of the documents to anyone who requests them from clskiles@aol.com.

...Carl Skiles

BOT Meeting Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order on October 15, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. The minutes of the meeting on September 17, were approved by a voice vote.

The Treasurer, Stu Anderson, reported the Finance Committee had a meeting on October 12, 2015. The rental for the Woman's Club building is current. The rental for the storage space and the office will be paid from the operating expenses instead of the Bequest Fund.

Social Justice Committee: At their meeting on September 29, this committee made a recommendation to the BOT to donate the Food Pantry and the Share the Plate collections through March 3, 2015, to the Lake Cares Food Pantry in the amount of \$968.41. The Board then by a recommendation voted to increase the donation to \$1,000. Some of the members of this committee will present the check to the Pantry in person.

This committee will inquire to members of the congregation regarding interest in future advocacy workshops on various social justice topics.

Membership: There is a new Chairperson for this committee. Janeane Reagan will take over the leadership from Eleanor Fessler who deserves our thanks for the years she served in this capacity.

Publicity: Gina Rossi recommended we continue to have the website hosted by Go Daddy and keep Christopher Ayers as the web master.

Wrap: This committee is busy filling open speaking dates.

Building and Design: Invitations to bid will be sent to several contractors. Betty Emery brought a sample chair to the meeting. This chair will be on display on Sunday mornings. Please try it out and give Betty your opinion of the comfort and looks of the chair.

Ongoing Business: Questions for Solar LLC were submitted to their representatives via e-mail on October 15, 2015.

Other Concerns: The BOT agreed to have new business cards designed and purchased. Suzie Lockwood is coordinating this effort.

We agreed to investigate the possibility of a Common Data Base to serve the needs of various functions and committees.

New Business: As we grow the concerns of safety and conflict will arise. The Board will study these matters, with the help of the recommendations on the UUA website.

Onward: The next meeting of the BOT will be on November 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Office on Grove Street.

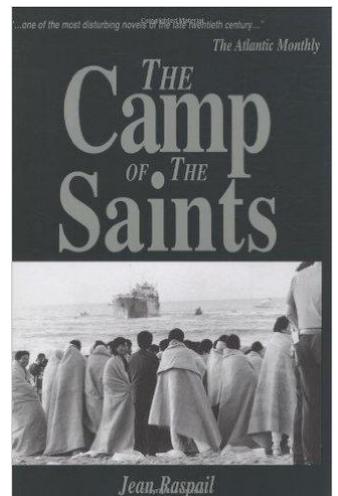
...Kit Tatum

Book Group

November's selection of the UU Book Group will not be an easy book for UUs to read. It is the controversial novel by French Author Jean Raspail, *The Camp of the Saints*. The novel, written in 1973, is disturbingly relevant to the immigration problem faced by Europe and the world due to the displacement of thousands of Syrians and others as a consequence of political chaos. The book has been called "politically incorrect" and with good reason. The Southern Poverty Law Center, condemns it as "a racist fantasy about the invasion of France and the Western world by a fleet of starving, dark-skinned refugees." How are the UU values of compassion and respect for the "inherent worth and dignity" of every being challenged by this kind of writing? Come prepared to defend your point of view or just come to hear the discussion.

Please note, our meeting day is NOT on the second Tuesday of the month this time. It is on November 17th at 3:00 in the Grove Street Office.

...Russ Littlefield



November Birthdays

John Landers, November 1
Alexander Emery, November 10
Ginny Morgan, November 12
David Jantz, November 12
Eloise Fisher, November 18
Connie Sanford, November 21
Rhoda Moore, November 29