



# The Communicator

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

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## Celebration of Life Programs

**June 1 – "Into the Beyond" with Egor Emery. Changing how Unitarian Universalists do church is scary, but UUA suggests that not changing means decline and lost opportunity.**



Egor Emery will share with us his impressions of exciting initiatives that will be introduced at the General Assembly in Providence, RI in late June. Russ Littlefield and June Sweeten will be there representing UUCLC.

"The future relevance of our faith may well depend on whether we can create a religious movement beyond, as well as within, the parish," writes UUA President Peter Morales.. According to national surveys, more than 650,000 people identify with Unitarian Universalism, and yet only approximately 180,000 are members of congregations.

Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, UUA Program and Strategy Officer, says that "people who are disenchanted with church today want more acceptance of difference. They still want spiritual experiences. They want to serve others, stand up for social justice, and live lives that matter in the world. They want joyous, loving community with other people

But, they're fed up with institutions. Yet much of our worship and our religious education is still centered on one person talking. That can still be a great and inspiring experience. But, it's not enough anymore. We have to create more opportunities for both adults and children to raise their own questions, follow their own curiosity, feed their own desire for learning. Then we can make meaning together. I believe we are on a new phase in history — a phase that requires not just new technical skills but also an entire culture shift. The church that speaks to and serves the next generation will not be the same. But that has always been true. The question for us is, 'How can we use our love of our church to try new ways, even if that means giving up some things we're very attached to?'"

**The UU Congregation of Lake County meets**  
Sundays at the Woman's Club of Eustis  
227 N. Center Street, Eustis, FL  
Discussion Group is at 9:45 a.m.  
Celebration of Life begins at 11 a.m.

Rev. Tandi Rogers, UUA's Growth Strategist, has identified 51 congregations and small groups in 'emerging' status and a variety of other groups organized around more experimental models. They are distributed across the country. Some meet informally at Starbucks or other public places. Many have a high percentage of young adults. They are more racially and culturally diversified. Several emphasize arts and music. Rev. Tandi says, "These groups fill me with hope. I like to think what a UUA filled with these communities might be like."

**June 8 – To be announced.**

**June 15 – "Be a Mensch, My Son!" with Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D.**

On this Fathers' Day, Dr. Tucker will guide us on a survey of some wonderful Jewish wisdom on the subject of what it means to be a responsible adult in our society. This insight and reflection will be good for both men and women, but directed mainly toward fathers and sons. ►



► Now retired, Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D. is Minister Emeritus of The UU Congregation of Lakeland, FL.

He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago. He earned his B.A., magna cum laude, in Religion and Philosophy from Texas Christian University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

His career has combined teaching and ministry. He taught Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and Logic at Yankton College (Yankton, South Dakota) and at Florida Southern College (Lakeland, Florida). He has served congregations in Texas, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Virginia, and Florida.

**June 22 – "To Whom It May Concern" with Robert P. Tucker, Ph.D.**

Dr. Tucker will be with us again on this date. June 25th is the anniversary of the day in 1962 when the U.S. Supreme Court banned official prayers in public schools. We will explore the role, if any, of prayer within Unitarian Universalism. Dr. Tucker's sermons are always thought-provoking and inspiring.

**June 29 – A Noteworthy Message still in preparation Reverend Roger Seidner**

Don't miss this special message. Our Consulting Minister Reverend Seidner reports that it is a work still in progress and that it promises to be somewhat special – It will be followed by our monthly POTLUCK.

Reverend Roger Seidner, our Consulting Minister, is available to respond to calls for pastoral care in crisis situations. If you or someone you know has a need, feel free to call him at (407) 905-5767.

**UUCLC Information & Contacts**

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**Discussion Group Programs**

**June 1 – "Spiritual Development",** Dr. Andrew Newberg, The Great Courses

**June 8 – The Making of the New Testament Canon,** By Prof. Bart Ehrman

**Dear Eustis UU Family,**

Thank You! These past days and weeks have been filled with love warm and support from you, our dear friends. We're overjoyed to share with you the potent and invaluable blessing that Bill has and continues to channel; Joy come into the heart that is always eager to know, Fulfillment comes not from fitting in but from making a difference, There is an infinite source of energy at the center of all things. We become whole in this universe by serving as a conduit for that Energy even as life tempts us to be a vessel for it. Bill taught these things without ever saying them. These gifts are yours to take with you today and always.

**...Carol Welter and Family.**

## **Book Club Meeting**

The UU Book Group will meet at 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday ,June 17th, 2014** in the UUCLC Office, at 127 N. Grove Street in Eustis. (The entry is in the front). At the last meeting we had a lively discussion of *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert. There was a large crowd and there were many opinions and comments. For June we are reading one of the following:

- *Things That Matter* by Charles Krauthammer
- *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Land Grabbers* by Fred Pearce

The contact for more detail is Robyn Kelly; her phone number is 352-327-7513.

## **Design Sub-Committee Meeting on May 4, 2014**

The meeting was held in the Woman's Club building at 222 Center Street, in Eustis, Florida. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Betty Emery, at 1:50 p.m. There were twenty-two members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) present at the meeting.

Betty Emery opened the meeting with comments regarding a 4,000 sq. ft. home in Orlando, which was designed by John Drake, AIA. Our committee interviewed Mr. Drake on March 11, 2014, to determine if he would be able to design a church that would meet with our approval. Bob and Christie Cleveland also toured the home. Betty and the Clevelands reported they approved of the "green" aspects of the building.

Then Christina (Chris) Higgins reviewed her observations of the building owned by the Marion County Unitarian Universalist Church, in Summerfield, Florida. Ms. Higgins had occasion to be a recent guest at the building. She had made photos of the interior and exterior of the building, which she had projected at this meeting. The features she emphasized were the memorial garden, kitchen, women's bathroom, sanctuary, and various pieces of equipment in these areas. They had a small area for handicapped parking and used the grassy areas for additional parking.

The memorial garden had engraved stones set in white gravel. The concrete benches had been donated and engraved in the memory of late members.

She was able to speak with one of the members of the Marion County Church who told her the stages and problems they had undergone while building their church. One of the problems, which were very costly in time and money, was the changing of the design many times.

Bob Cleveland discussed the burning of fossil fuels, which are heating the atmosphere. He emphasized the value to the environment and to the reduced operating expense of solar power.

Betty Emery and Jack Champion showed photos of various churches they had visited before this meeting. These churches were examples of various architectural styles, furnishings, and finishes that can be used to complete churches.

Susan Berryman joined us in the meeting. She and her husband have extended experience with using and installing solar energy.

The next phase of the meeting was a review of the estimated room sizes the committee had decided to use throughout the proposed building. The estimates were made at the committee meeting on April 30, 2013. The total area of the proposed space was 8,000 square feet.

At this meeting we pared the square feet of the structure down to a proposed 6,000 sq. ft. The sanctuary is to be a flexible space to include an area for a social hall with both spaces totaling 3600 sq. ft. We also are

going to have a pavilion as a separate structure on our property (the size of the pavilion was not discussed). The initial estimates allow for \$233,000 to furnish the building, \$965,000 to build the structure, \$200,000 for outside improvements, \$250,000 for reserve funds. In addition, it has been suggested that we will need 1200 sq. ft. of roof (or other flat space) for solar panels at a cost of approximately \$70,000.

Submitted by Kit Tatum, board Secretary

## President's Message...

### **A Capsule View of this Year's Florida District Annual Conference: Governance, Growth, and a Little Bit of Love**

There's a sense of excitement about our governance experiment in the Southern Region of which the Florida District is a part. Of all the regions that comprise the UUA (there are five of them), the Southern Region is in the forefront of creating a new paradigm aimed at more effective governance. I have written and talked about this governance structure before, and I am not going to spend a lot of time on it now. Essentially, it puts new emphasis on individual congregations and on linking them one to another and to the UUA. The aim is to make things as fluid as possible, or as one speaker said, eliminating double lines, or as Kenn Hurto put it in his simulcast talk, "the stand-alone ministry is defunct." Eventually, if all this can be pulled off, we will be in touch with the UUA through our Congregational Life (CL) representative and through our "cluster," which, at present, is functioning minimally but, I hope, will be restored soon. There are seven CL staff in the Southern Region with Kenn Hurto being the lead CL person and Maggie Lovins being the CL member who works directly with our area. As Jim Key, the new Moderator of the UUA, said, the Southern District is leading the way in this governance experiment. He should know — he is the chief governance officer of the UUA. As chief governance officer, he is chair of the UUA board of trustees and consults with President Morales on UUA Policy. He's also in charge of the plenary sessions at General Assembly. Moderator is a volunteer position, but one must be elected at General Assembly in order to serve. It's not an easy job as you might imagine.



Jim's talk, which was simulcast to all four districts, indicated that he is not just a policy wonk. He seemed to be able to blend broader philosophical/theological matters with the pragmatic elements of governance. He pointed out, for example, that we arose out of the Christian Protestant tradition and that our name, Unitarian Universalist, reflects our theological history as the Unitarians rejected the concept of the trinity and the Universalists the concept of damnation. The problem we have as we try to tell others who we are is that we don't know our history and theology well enough to tell our story. We must become grounded in our own heritage, he said. Our heritage and tradition are one of the principle sources of authority in the UU movement as we face what he called, "a non-denominational world." Our congregation has talked about this world many times. It is the world of the "nones," those who check "none of the above" when asked in surveys about their religious affiliation. Key, like many others, thinks this non-denominational movement favors us, but how do we tap into it and grow?

That question was taken on by Tandi Rogers. Tandi is Growth Strategy Specialist for the UUA. As such, she knows a lot about what turns people on and what just turns people off. I've blended together three salient points she made in her morning talk and in her afternoon workshop, which both Jack Champion and I attended. One of the best ways to promote growth, she said, is through peer-to-peer conversations. To engage in these in a productive way, if you are going to talk about

Unitarian Universalism, you had better know what you are talking about. In other words, know your UU heritage and theology and why you care about it. Secondly, approach these conversations with right attitude. As she said, it is more important to be in right relationship with someone than to insist that you are right. As you would expect, she is apparently good at eliciting this kind of dialogue. Not many of us would have a flaming chalice tattooed on her wrist as an entry point to these conversations as she has done. Finally, she advised, look carefully at your motivation for growth. If you are trying to fatten up the budget, forget it. That's one of the things that turn people off. It is much more productive, she claims, to pursue "growth as love, not just numbers." In other words, you want to grow because of the love you manifest in your services and in your social justice programs. Stewardship should be undertaken for the right reasons.



Bill Clontz knows about those "right reasons." He is the Southern Region's sage of stewardship. Clontz, a retired US Army officer, has been a member of the International Mentoring Association, and a Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and the Brookings Institution. He is a force to be reckoned with. Karen Woolhouse went to the afternoon workshop with Bill. She has reported that it was a powerful and fruitful session and she has shared some of what she learned with several concerned with stewardship. Karen will return in the fall to put some of this into practice. Although I did not attend this workshop, I point him out to you as someone who is a valuable resource.

Finally, the theme of this conference was Love, and even though there was much talk



about governance and stewardship, the theme was not forgotten. It made its way into Jim Key's talk when he was asked during the Q and A session how he would explain our theology to a contemporary person. His answer was "We are all in this together, walking together and loving together." Tandi Rogers, as I said, told us that we must promote love first and numbers will come. And Phillip Baber talked about love explicitly in a homily he gave at the closing worship service for Saturday's activities. Phillip is a young man, and his style was the closest thing to "evangelical" of anything I have ever heard in a UU context. Karen Woolhouse and I shared our reactions to it on the way home. We both had some trouble with the style, but I confess that I was at times genuinely moved by some of his message about Love. I did a Google search for him and found a number of entries. One was this Facebook entry: "Under the leadership of Phillip Baber, this church (Jacksonville) has come to life." It was posted by a young person. For me, the key to his talk was his assertion that "Love refuses to be bounded by a word." Everyone of us has something to learn about it, he told us. We are sometimes referred to as the "Love People." There are a lot worse things that we could be called.

## **New Members**

Did you know that nine new members are being welcomed to UUCLC on May 25? Here is an introduction to several of them. You already know two others, Susan Berryman (one of our favorite speakers) and her husband Peter have also signed our membership book

### **Stuart Anderson**

Stuart "Stu" Anderson, PhD, is an amateur naturalist, perennial gardener, and family genealogist. A family man, he has a son and triplet granddaughters. Stu is a former member of the American Humanist Association and at one time, attended the Ethical Culture Society, as well as Episcopal, Congregational and Presbyterian churches. Currently he teaches Astronomy at Lake Sumter State College, but for many years he taught College Physics, Math, and Astronomy in Northern California and Upstate New York. He is currently writing two books on subatomic particles.

### **Kathy Collins**

Kathy's main interest is the environment, so it was a natural choice for her to return to college recently to earn her degree in Environmental Science. She's an avid reader, and loves white water rafting, rock climbing, growing tropical seeds, knitting and crocheting. Kathy is also one of our UU singers. A native of Seattle, Washington, at one time she attended Unitarian Universalist services in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

### **Suzie Hanscom**

New beginnings! Suzie recently relocated from Palm Beach County to our beautiful area. For more than 30 years she worked in the medical field, for the past four years, as a Companion/Caregiver and wants to continue in that field. Suzie is a former member of the UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, where she served as assistant treasurer and was active on the Social Action Committee. In her words, "I was so excited when I found you... I knew I was in the right place to begin my journey. To reconnect with my authentic self and heal my spirit, I spend my time doing things I love; I read, search, draw, and create jewelry. I am so happy to be here and to have found you. It feels as if it was meant to be."

### **Christie Cleveland**

Christie has been a UU since 1990 in E. Lansing, Michigan. She has taught adult religious education (RE) classes, chaired the Adult RE Committee and is a Covenant Group facilitator. Her working career included teaching PE and social studies for 31 years for grades 7-12, and after retiring from public school teaching, she taught senior fitness classes. Currently she keeps busy kayaking, dancing, playing tennis, hiking, biking, cross country skiing, reading, gardening and playing with her two grandkids.

### **Bob Cleveland**

Bob first attended a UU church as a child in Colorado and returned to UU in 1990 in Michigan, where he is active on the environmental justice committee. He spent his 35 working years as an award-winning custom color printer. When he is not studying climate change, he spends his time kayaking, dancing, hiking, biking, taking photographs and naps.

### **Patsy "Pat" Barton**

Pat's hobbies are Genealogy, reading mysteries, and crocheting. She has been married to her husband, Bruce, for 53 yrs. They have 2 daughters. She grew up in Indiana, but has lived in 6 different states since then. Since retiring she and her husband have been to 43 states.

## **Susan Mulholland**

Susan writes "I am a retired teacher (after 30 years) from Doylestown, Pa. and I taught two and 1/2 years in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I have many interests surrounding art /artists and will become the next President of the Mt. Dora Art League which will be 90 in 2016. I won a national ACE award in 1990 for local television production and I enjoy gardening, traveling, reading, experimenting in art and facilitating almost anything for others! Together we have eight grandchildren and have lived in the Lakes of Mt. Dora for six years and have been retired for 16 years. I like to sing and am enjoying this assembly of similar minds!"

**...Eleanor Fessler**

## **Watching the Pennies for the New Building...**

The land acquisition phase of the UUCLC building project has concluded, with a total expenditure of \$753,700, about \$11,000 less than the anticipated total. These land acquisition costs included the cost of the land itself (\$740,000), closing costs, the environmental study and other due diligence, the survey update, costs for legal and title opinions, and costs of the annexation of the land to the city of Eustis and the zoning change.

As we proceed into the pre-construction phase of the building project, the Building Committee is watching the pennies carefully. The Ruth Gray bequest was very generous, but we are discovering how expensive it is to build.

The pre-construction phase of the project is expected to cost \$275,000. This will include initial architectural and design fees, building permit and impact fees, and site improvement, which is by far the largest portion of the expense. Site improvement includes getting utilities and sewer service to the building, cleanup and clearing and grading of the land, any necessary mitigation, a retention pond, parking lots and driveways, exterior lighting, fencing, landscaping and plants.

\$250,000 of the bequest is budgeted to be held in reserve for future maintenance of the building. When the land acquisition, pre-construction, and reserve costs are subtracted from the bequest, it leaves \$1,200,000. for the building itself. This sounds like a lot, but it has to cover the cost of the building and also the cost of finishing, furnishing, and equipping the building.

Costs for finishing and furnishing are currently anticipated to be \$233,000, which includes painting, sound and lighting and projection systems, building and equipping the kitchen, finishing the sanctuary, flooring, art and decoration, etc. This leaves \$968,000 for the building itself. That figure has to cover construction of the building and foundation, making it weather tight including windows and doors, the drywall and carpentry work, ventilation and AC, electrical and plumbing work and fixtures, etc.

The budget will cover the essentials but there is no room for extras. The Building Committee will be looking for ways to raise extra funds to make the building more beautiful. Donations for memorial or tribute gifts for special items will be vital to the beauty of the end result. The members of the Finance Subcommittee are Karen Woolhouse, Frank Bishop, and Jack Champion, and any of us would be happy to talk with you privately about ideas you might have for a special gift. Any discussion would be confidential, and without any commitment.

Ruth Gray's bequest was a wonderful gift to us all. It is exciting to be moving toward actual construction of the UUCLC home which she envisioned for us.

**...Karen Woolhouse**

## **Greeting Cards Sold to Benefit the UUCLC Children's Program**

We are taking a summer break in the sale of greeting cards to benefit the planned UUCLC children's program. As of now we have raised \$210, which is enough to make some significant purchases for the program. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a bundle of these beautiful art greeting cards.

The greeting cards were donated by Hinda Ramsay. Each card features original art and a verse created by Hinda. They are beautiful greeting cards with envelopes to match. All the proceeds from their sale go to UUCLC.

We will be back in the autumn to sell greeting cards, and have plans to add a holiday card package to the lineup. If you need a package of greeting cards before then, please get in touch with Hinda and she will get them to you. The cards are bundled in packages of ten, either birthday cards or all occasion, and a package sells for \$10.00.

Thanks again to everyone who purchased cards.

### **June Birthdays**

Bob Young, June 2

Steve Collins, June 11

Franklin Pennington, June 23